THE PSALMS

TRANSLATED

BY

J. M. POWIS SMITH

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THE PSALMS

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TRANSLATED BY

J. M. POWIS SMITH

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PREFACE

THE new translation presented here is not an attempt to bring the Psalms down to the level of the mythical "man on the street." The Psalms, like most of the Old Testament writings, belong to the world's literary classics. They are not, therefore, fittingly translated unless they are reproduced in a language and style befitting their spirit and content. This translation is debtor to all that have gone before it. It does not aim to dethrone the recognized classical rendering found in the King James Version. That still stands unrivaled as a masterpiece of English literature. The desire of this rendering is rather to incorporate within itself the results of the scholarship of recent decades. The purpose of a translation should be to express, as completely and accurately as the limitations of the language permit, the thought and feeling of the original. No translator can hope to carry over the entire content of his original. Something is always lost in the transfer. The only way to avoid such loss is to indulge in paraphrase. The gains made by paraphrase are more than offset by its losses. It affords too much opportunity for the subjective imagination to permit its being used as a safe guide to the content of the original. This rendering, therefore, while seeking to avoid a bald literalism, prefers to err upon that side rather than upon the side of paraphrastic expansion.

The widest departure from the official translations will be found in the region of textual criticism. There is no attempt here to produce a scientifically accurate text. Such an effort would be out of place in a translation intended for the public in general. The aim has been rather to accept the official text

where it was susceptible of translation and made reasonable sense; but to correct that text wherever it was manifestly wrong. In a great many cases the right text is presented by some one or more of the ancient versions. In other cases, recourse has been had to scientifically controlled conjecture. The Hebrew text is in many places unintelligible, and was evidently already corrupted before the ancient versions were made. In such cases, present-day scholarship seeks a way out by emendation, rigidly controlled by the laws of textual criticism. The extent to which change has been necessary in the text of the Psalms may be seen by reference to the notes at the end of this volume.

Attention may be called to the treatment given the divine name. The Hebrews called their God by the proper name "Yahweh." As the centuries passed, there grew up among them the feeling that the name Yahweh was so holy that it should never be pronounced. Therefore they substituted the Hebrew word for "Lord" for the personal name Yahweh whenever it occurred. In later times still, when the vowels were first added to the Hebrew consonantal text, they actually wrote the consonants of the name Yahweh with the vowels of the Hebrew word for "Lord." Every Hebrew rabbi knew that this meant that he should pronounce the word for "Lord" when reading the text, and not the name Yahweh. In Christian times, about the thirteenth century, the practice grew up in the Church of pronouncing this combination of two words in the way that it was written; hence arose a new form, "Jehovah," which was without any linguistic warrant. In this translation the usage of the later Hebrews is followed in the rendering, namely, "*the Lord.*" At times, when the original Hebrew text had the phrase "the Lord Yahweh," the translation here runs "the Lord *God*," this being the way the

scribes read it. If any reader wishes to recover for himself the feeling of the original in its fulness, all that need be done is to substitute "Yahweh" for *Lord* or *God*, whenever those words are italicized. The rendering "Yahweh" as it was in the original Hebrew is not followed here, since it would completely ruin the poetic and religious quality of the Psalms for many minds. Nobody knows what the original name really meant; hence all attempts to translate "Yahweh" are hypothetical.

A brief introduction to the Psalter is appended to the translation, in order that the reader may get some orientation with reference to the spirit and purpose of the Psalter. The hope of the translator is that, through this rendering, a new insight may be obtained into the beauties of the world's greatest hymnbook.

J. M. Powis Smith

June 1, 1926

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BOOK I

PSS. 1–41

1

THE PROSPERITY OF THE PIOUS

HOW happy is the man who has not walked in the
counsel of the wicked,
Nor stood in the way of sinners,
Nor sat in the seat of scoffers!
2 But his delight is in the law of the *Lord*,
And in his law does he study day and night.
3 For he is like a tree planted by streams of water,
That yields its fruit in its season,
And its leaf does not wither;
And whatsoever he does he brings to success.

4 The wicked are not so;
But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.
5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
6 For the *Lord* knows the way of the righteous;
But the way of the wicked will perish.

2

A WARNING TO THE NATIONS

WHEREFORE do the nations rage,
And the peoples plot in vain?
2 The kings of the earth stand up,
And the princes also take counsel,
Against the *Lord* and against his anointed:
3 "Let us burst their bonds asunder,
And cast their cords from us."
4 He that sits in the heavens laughs;
The Lord makes sport of them.

5 Then will he speak to them in his wrath,
And terrify them in his fury:
6 "I, indeed, have anointed my king,
On Zion, my holy hill."

7 Let me tell of the decree of the *Lord:*
He said to me, "You are my son;
Today have I begotten you.
8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance,
And the ends of the earth your possession.
9 You shall break them with an iron rod;
You shall smash them like a potter's vessel."

10 Be cautious, therefore, O kings;
Take warning, O rulers of the earth.
11 Serve the *Lord* with fear,
And rejoice with trembling;
12 Kiss his feet with trepidation, lest he be angry and you perish in the way;
For his wrath is soon kindled.
How happy are they who take refuge in him!

3
AN ASSURANCE OF DIVINE DELIVERANCE

[A PSALM OF DAVID WHEN HE FLED FROM BEFORE HIS SON ABSALOM]

HOW many are my foes, O *Lord!*
Many are rising up against me.
2 Many are saying concerning me:
"There is no help for him in God." *Selah*

3 But thou, O *Lord*, art a shield about me,
My glory, and the one who raises my head.
4 I cry aloud to the *Lord*,
And he answers me from his holy hill. *Selah*

5 I lay me down and sleep;
I awake, for the *Lord* sustains me.
6 I am not afraid of the myriads of people
That have set upon me round about.

7 Arise, O *Lord;* deliver me, O my God.
Verily, thou wilt smite all my foes upon the cheek;
Thou wilt break the teeth of the wicked.
8 Salvation belongs unto the *Lord.*
Upon thy people be thy blessing! *Selah*

4

A HYMN OF FAITH

[TO THE DIRECTOR: WITH HARPS.
A PSALM OF DAVID]

WHEN I call, answer me, O God of my righteousness,
Thou who didst give me room when I was in distress;
Be gracious unto me and hear my prayer.
2 O sons of men, how long is my glory to be a shame,
While you love a thing of nought
And seek after lies? *Selah*

3 But know that the *Lord* has set apart the pious for himself.
The *Lord* will hear when I cry unto him.
4 Tremble, and do not sin.

Commune with your own hearts upon your bed and be still. *Selah*

5 Offer righteous sacrifices,
And trust in the *Lord.*
6 There are many who say, "Oh, that we might see some good!"
Lift up upon us the light of thy countenance, O *Lord.*
7 Thou hast put joy in my heart,
More than in the time that their corn and new wine increase.
8 In peace will I both lay me down and sleep;
For thou, O *Lord,* alone makest me dwell in safety.

5
A PRAYER FOR DIVINE AID

[TO THE DIRECTOR: FOR THE FLUTES. A PSALM OF DAVID]

GIVE ear to my words, O *Lord;*
Attend to my sighing.
2 Give heed to the sound of my cry,
My king and my God;
For unto thee do I pray, O *Lord.*
3 In the morning thou wilt hear my voice;
In the morning I will lay it before thee and wait.

4 For thou art not a God that takes pleasure in wickedness;
Nor may evil dwell with thee.
5 The boastful may not stand before thine eyes.
Thou hatest all that do wrong.
6 Thou destroyest those who tell lies.
The *Lord* abhors the bloody and deceitful man.

7 But I shall enter thy house by thine abundant loving-kindness;
I shall bow down toward thy holy temple in awe of thee.
8 O *Lord*, lead me in thy righteousness, because of my enemies;
Make thy way straight before me.
9 For there is nothing trustworthy in their mouth, their heart is treacherous.
Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongue they flatter.

10 Condemn them, O God, that they may fall by their own devices;
Because of their many transgressions cast them out because they have rebelled against thee;
11 That all who take refuge in thee may rejoice and shout for joy forever;
And do thou protect them, that those who love thy name may exult in thee.
12 For thou dost bless the righteous, O *Lord;*
Thou dost surround him with favor as with a shield.

6

A PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM FOES

[TO THE DIRECTOR: WITH STRINGED INSTRUMENTS; ACCORDING TO THE *sheminith*. A PSALM OF DAVID]

CHIDE me not in thine anger, O *Lord*,
Neither chasten me in thy wrath.
2 Pity me, O *Lord*, for I am faint;
Heal me, O *Lord*, for my bones are shaken,

3 And my being is sore shaken.
And thou, O *Lord*—how long?

4 Return, O *Lord*, and deliver me,
Save me because of thy loving-kindness.
5 For in death there is no remembrance of thee.
In Sheol who praises thee?
6 I am worn out with my moaning;
Every night I flood my bed with tears.
With my weeping I water my couch.
7 My eye is dimmed because of trouble,
It grows old because of all my foes.

8 Depart from me, all evildoers;
For the *Lord* has heard the sound of my weeping.
9 The *Lord* has heard my entreaty;
The *Lord* receives my prayer.
10 All my foes will be ashamed and sore terrified;
They will turn back; they will be suddenly ashamed.

7

A PLEA FOR JUSTICE

[A *shiggaion* OF DAVID WHICH HE SANG TO THE *Lord* CONCERNING CUSH, A BENJAMITE]

I HAVE taken shelter in thee, O *Lord*, my God.
Save me from all who pursue me, and deliver me;
2 Lest like a lion they tear me,
Dragging me away, with none to rescue.
3 O *Lord*, my God, if I have done this,
If there is guilt on my hands,
4 If I have requited evil to my friend,
Or plundered him that was my enemy without cause,

5 May the enemy pursue me,
And overtake, and trample my life to the earth;
May he lay my honor in the dust. *Selah*

6 Arise, O *Lord*, in thine anger,
Lift up thyself in wrath against my foes,
And rise up for me to the judgment thou hast appointed.
7 And surround thyself with the assembly of the peoples,
And return thou thereon to the heights.
8 The *Lord* judges the peoples: do me justice, O *Lord*,
In accordance with my righteousness and my integrity.

9 May the evil of the wicked come to an end, and establish thou the righteous.
He who tries heart and mind is the righteous God.
10 My shield is upon God,
Who saves the upright in heart.
11 God is a just judge,
And a God who is angry daily.

12 Certainly he will again whet his sword;
He has bent his bow and aimed it.
13 And he has got ready his deadly weapons;
His arrows he turns into fiery shafts.
14 Behold, he conceives wrong,
And he is pregnant with mischief and brings forth lies.
15 He digs and excavates a pit;
But falls into the hole that he makes.
16 His mischief recoils upon his own head;
And upon his own pate his villainy descends.

17 I will praise the *Lord* for his righteousness,
And sing praises to the name of the *Lord* most high.

8

THE DIGNITY OF MAN AND THE GLORY OF GOD

[TO THE DIRECTOR: UPON *gittith*.
A PSALM OF DAVID]

O *Lord*, our Lord,
How glorious is thy name in all the earth!
I will sing thy praise to the heavens,
2 From the mouths of babes and infants.
Thou hast established strength because of thine enemies,
To still the enemy and the revengeful.

3 When I see thy heavens, the work of thy fingers,
The moon and the stars which thou hast formed;
4 What is man that thou shouldst think of him,
And the son of man that thou shouldst care for him?

5 Yet thou hast made him but little lower than God,
And dost crown him with glory and honor!
6 Thou makest him ruler over the works of thy hands,
Thou has put all things under his feet;

7 All sheep and oxen,
And also the beasts of the field;
8 The birds of the heavens and the fish of the sea,
That traverse the paths of the seas.

9 O *Lord*, our Lord,
How glorious is thy name in all the earth.

9

THE WICKED SHALL BE OVERTHROWN

[TO THE DIRECTOR: UPON *muth-labben.*
A PSALM OF DAVID]

א

I WILL praise the *Lord* with all my heart;
I will tell of all thy wonders.
2 I will rejoice and exult in thee,
I will praise thy name, O most High;

ב

3 Because my enemies turn back,
They stumble and perish from before thee.
4 For thou hast maintained my just cause;
Thou hast sat upon the throne giving righteous judgment.

ג

5 Thou hast rebuked the nations, thou hast destroyed the wicked,
Their name thou hast blotted out forever and ever.
6 The foe—they are destroyed;
Perpetual ruins are the cities which thou hast rooted up;
Their memory has perished.

ה

7 Behold the *Lord* abides forever.
He has established his throne for judgment.
8 And he judges the world in righteousness;
He passes sentence on peoples with equity.

ו

9 And the *Lord* is a stronghold for the oppressed,
A stronghold in times of need.

10 And those who know thy name trust in thee,
For thou hast not forsaken those who seek thee, O *Lord.*

ז

11 Chant praises to the *Lord* who dwells in Zion;
Make known among the peoples his deeds!
12 For as avenger of blood he has remembered them;
He has not forgotten the cry of the poor.

ח

13 Have pity on me, O *Lord;* see my trouble from those who hate me,
O thou my deliverer from the gates of death,
14 That I may recount all thy praises,
That in the gates of the daughter of Zion I may rejoice in thy deliverance.

ט

15 The nations are plunged into the pit which they have made;
Their foot is caught in the net which they have hidden.
16 The *Lord* is made known; he has executed judgment.
In his own handwork the wicked is snared.
Higgaion. Selah

י

17 The wicked will return to Sheol,
All the nations that forget God.

כ

18 For the poor will not be always forgotten,
Nor will the hope of the meek perish forever.
19 Arise, O *Lord*, let not man prevail;
Let the nations be judged in thy presence.
20 Put them in terror, O *Lord*,
That the nations may know they are but men. *Selah*

ל

10:1 Why dost thou stand afar off, O *Lord*,
And hide thyself in times of need?
2 The wicked in his arrogance consumes the poor.
May they be caught in the schemes which they have devised!

3 The wicked sings the praises of his own desires,
And the robber curses, and rejects God;
4 The wicked in the pride of his countenance does not seek him;
All his thought is, "There is no God."
5 His ways prosper at all times.
Thy judgments are on high, far from him.
He quells all his foes.
6 He says to himself, "I shall not be moved;
From one generation to another my steps will not be in distress."
7 His mouth is filled with curses and deceit and violence.
Mischief and wrong are under his tongue.
8 He sits in the lurking-places of villages;
In hiding-places he murders the innocent.
His eyes lie in wait for the unfortunate.
9 He lurks in secret like a lion in a thicket;
He robs the weak when he draws him into his net.
10 And he bends over, he crouches;
And the unfortunate fall by his mighty men.
11 He says to himself, "God has forgotten;
He has hidden his face; he will never see it."

ר

12 Arise, O *Lord;* O God, lift up thy hand.
Do not forget the poor.

13 Why has the wicked despised God,
And said to himself, "Thou wilt not search out?"

ר

14 Thou seest; for thou dost look upon trouble and vexation,
To give them into thy power.
The unfortunate leaves himself to thee;
Thou hast been a helper to the fatherless.

ש

15 Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evildoer,
Let his wickedness be sought and not found.
16 The *Lord* is king forever and ever.
The nations will perish from his land.

ת

17 Thou hast heard the desire of the meek, O *Lord*,
Thou dost set thy mind, thou dost pay close heed,
18 So as to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed,
That man who is of the earth may never again strike terror.

11

THE COMING JUDGMENT

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: OF DAVID]

I HAVE taken refuge in the *Lord;*
How then do you say to me:
Flee like a bird to your mountain?"

2 For, lo, the wicked bend the bow,
They fit their arrow to the string,
To shoot in the dark at the upright in heart.

3 When the foundations are torn down,
What has the righteous done?

4 The *Lord* is in his holy temple,
The *Lord*, whose throne is in the heavens;
His eyes behold, his eyelids test the sons of men.

5 The *Lord* tests the righteous and the wicked,
And he hates the lover of violence.
6 On the wicked he will rain coals of fire;
Brimstone and scorching wind will be the portion of their cup.

7 For the *Lord* is righteous; he loves righteousness,
The upright will behold his face.

12

A PLEA FROM THOSE IN DISTRESS

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: UPON THE *sheminith*.
A PSALM OF DAVID]

SAVE, *Lord*, for the pious cease to be,
For the faithful disappear from the sons of men.
2 They speak lies each with his neighbor;
With slippery lip and double heart they speak.
3 May the *Lord* cut off all slippery lips,
And the tongue that speaks big words;
4 Those who say, "We will make ourselves great by our tongue,
Our lips are with us; who is our master?"

5 "Because the poor are exploited, because the needy groan,

I will now arise," says the *Lord;*
"I will place him in the safety for which he longs."
6 The words of the *Lord* are pure words,
Silver refined in a furnace on the ground,
Purified sevenfold.

7 Do thou protect us, O *Lord;*
Guard us from this generation forever.
8 The wicked parade around,
When baseness is exalted among the sons of men.

13

A PRAYER IN FAITH

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: A PSALM OF DAVID]

HOW long, O *Lord*—wilt thou continually forget me?
How long wilt thou hide thy face from me?
2 How long am I to lay cares upon myself,
And trouble in my heart daily?
How long shall my enemy triumph over me?

3 Look upon me and answer me, O *Lord*, my God.
Lighten my eyes, lest I sleep in death;
4 Lest my enemy say, "I have overcome him,"
And my foes exult because I am shaken.

5 But I have trusted in thy grace;
My heart shall rejoice in thy deliverance.
I will sing unto the *Lord*,
Because he has treated me kindly.

14

THE VINDICATION OF GOD

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: OF DAVID]

THE fool said in his heart, "There is no God."
They acted basely, they did abominable things.
There was none that did good.

2 The *Lord* looked forth from the heavens upon the children of men,
To see if there were any that acted wisely,
That sought after God.

3 They had all gone astray and they had also done wrong.
There was none that did good,
No, not even one.

4 Do they know nothing, all the evildoers
Who eat up my people as they eat bread,
But do not call upon the *Lord?*

5 Then were they in great terror;
For God was with the righteous generation.
6 You would put to shame the plans of the poor;
But the *Lord* is his refuge.

7 Oh, that the deliverance of Israel would come from Zion!
When the *Lord* turns the captivity of his people,
Jacob shall exult; Israel shall rejoice.

15

THE FRIEND OF GOD

[A PSALM OF DAVID]

WHO may sojourn in thy pavilion, O *Lord?*
Who may dwell upon thy holy hill?
2 "He who walks blamelessly, and does right,
And speaks truth from his heart.
3 He is not hasty with his tongue.
He does no wrong to his fellows;
Nor does he take blame upon himself because of his neighbor.
4 In his eyes a bad man is despised;
But he honors those who fear the *Lord.*
He swears to his own hurt and does not retract.
5 He does not put out his money on interest,
Nor take a bribe against the innocent.
He who does such things will never be moved."

16

FAITH AND HOPE

[A *miktam* OF DAVID]

PRESERVE me, O God, for I have sought refuge in thee.
2 I have said to the *Lord*, "O Lord, thou art my welfare;
There is none besides thee."
3 As to the gods who are in the land
And the lofty ones, I have no pleasure in them.
4 Their images are many; others praise them;
But I will not pour out their libations of blood,
Nor will I take their names upon my lips.

5 The *Lord* is my portion, my share, and my cup.
Thou holdest my lot.
6 The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
My inheritance indeed pleases me.
7 I will bless the *Lord* who has counseled me;
In the night also my thoughts instruct me.
8 I have kept the *Lord* continually before me.
For, with him at my right, I shall not be moved.

9 Therefore my heart is glad and my honor rejoices;
My flesh also dwells in security;
10 For thou wilt not abandon me to Sheol;
Thou wilt not let thy pious one see the pit.
11 Thou wilt show me the path of life.
Fulness of joy is in thy presence;
Pleasures are always in thy right hand.

17

A PRAYER FOR VINDICATION

[A PRAYER OF DAVID]

HEAR the right, O *Lord;*
Give heed to my cry;
Listen to my prayer,
Which is not from deceitful lips.
2 From before thee may my judgment proceed;
May thine eyes see the right.

3 Thou hast tried my heart; thou hast visited me by night;
Thou has purified me by fire;
Thou dost not find iniquity in me;
My mouth does not transgress.

4 According to the deeds of man, through the word from thy lips,
I have kept the prescribed ways.
5 My steps have held fast to thy tracks;
My footsteps have not faltered.

6 I call upon thee, for thou wilt answer me, O God.
Incline thine ear to me; hear my speech.
7 Show the wonders of thy mercy, O savior of those who seek shelter
From their adversaries at thy right hand.
8 Protect me like the pupil, the daughter of the eye;
Hide me in the shadow of thy wings,
9 From the wicked who despoil me,
My deadly enemies who surround me.

10 They have closed their hearts;
With their mouths they speak in pride.
11 I see them: they have now encompassed me;
They set their eyes to cast me to the ground.
12 He is like a lion that is eager for prey,
And a young lion that lurks in ambush.

13 Arise, O *Lord*, confront him, bring him low.
Deliver me from the wicked by thy sword,
14 From men by thy hand, O *Lord*,
From men whose portion in life is fatness;
15 And their belly is filled with thy treasures;
Their children are satiated;
And they leave the rest for their babes.
16 But I in justification shall behold thy face;
I shall be satisfied when thy form awakes.

18

A VICTOR'S HYMN OF PRAISE

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: OF THE SERVANT OF THE *Lord*, DAVID, WHO ADDRESSED THE WORDS OF THIS SONG TO THE *Lord*, IN THE DAY THAT THE *Lord* RESCUED HIM FROM THE HAND OF ALL HIS FOES AND FROM THE HAND OF SAUL. AND HE SAID:]

I LOVE thee, O *Lord*, my strength!
2 The *Lord* is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer;
My God, my rock in whom I take refuge;
My shield, and the horn of my deliverance, my tower.
3 "The praiseworthy one" do I call the *Lord;*
For from my enemies I was delivered.
4 Waves of death encompassed me,
Streams of ruin appalled me.
5 The cords of Sheol surrounded me,
Snares of death confronted me.

6 In my need I called upon the *Lord*,
And unto my God I cried for help;
7 He heard my voice from his palace,
And my cry unto him entered his ears.

8 Then the earth quaked and rocked,
And the foundations of the hills trembled
And rocked, when he was angry.
9 Smoke ascended from his nostrils,
And fire from his mouth devoured;
Coals were kindled therefrom.

10 And he bowed the heavens and came down,
Black clouds were under his feet.

11 He rode upon a cherub and flew,
And he glided along on the wings of the wind.

12 He made darkness his covert;
Round about him as his pavilion was the darkness of the heavens,
Thick clouds without brightness;
13 Before him passed his thick clouds,
Hailstones, and coals of fire,
14 And the *Lord* thundered from the heavens,
The Most High uttered his voice;
Hailstones and coals of fire.

15 He sent forth his arrows and scattered them;
Lightnings he hurled and routed them.
16 And the bed of the sea was seen,
And the foundations of the world were uncovered
At thy rebuke, O *Lord*,
At the fierce breath of thy wrath.
17 He sent from on high, he took me,
He drew me out of many waters;
18 He delivered me from my strong enemy,
And from those who hated me; for they were too strong for me.

19 They confronted me in the day of my misfortune,
But the *Lord* became my stay.
20 And he led me forth into a broad place;
He set me free, for he was pleased with me.
21 The *Lord* treated me in accordance with my righteousness;
In accordance with the cleanness of my hands he requited me.

22 For I have kept the ways of the *Lord*,
And have not transgressed against my God.
23 For all his judgments are before me,
And his decrees I do not put away from me.
24 And I was blameless toward him,
And guarded myself from my guilt.

25 So the *Lord* requited me in accordance with my righteousness,
And according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.

26 Toward the pious thou dost act piously;
Toward the blameless man thou dost act blamelessly;
27 Toward the pure thou dost act purely;
And toward the crooked thou dost act craftily.

28 For thou wilt deliver an humble people,
But haughty eyes thou wilt bring low.
29 For thou dost light my lamp, O *Lord*,
My God lightens my darkness.
30 For through thee I break down a rampart,
And through my God I leap over a wall.

31 The way of God is blameless,
The speech of the *Lord* is sincere;
A shield is he to all who take refuge in him.
32 For who is God but the *Lord?*
And who is a rock save our God?

33 The God who girds me with might,
And makes my way blameless,

34 Making my feet like hinds' feet,
And making me stand securely on my heights;
35 The one who trains my hands for battle,
So that my arms bend a bow of bronze.
36 And thou dost give me thy saving shield,
And thy right hand supports me;
And thy help makes me great.
37 Thou dost make broad my steps under me,
And my ankles do not give way.

38 I pursue my foes and overtake them,
And do not turn back until they are destroyed.
39 I smite them so that they are unable to stand,
Beneath my feet they fall.

40 And thou dost gird me with strength for the battle,
Thou dost bow down my opponents under me;
41 And thou dost make my enemies show me the back;
And those that hate me I destroy.

42 They cry for help, but there is none to deliver;
To the *Lord*, but he does not answer them.
43 And I crumble them, like dust before the wind;
I crush them like the dirt of the streets.
44 And thou dost rescue me from the feuds of the people;
Thou dost establish me as head of the nations;
People that I have not known serve me;
45 As soon as they hear of me they submit themselves to me;
Foreigners fawn upon me,
46 Foreigners fade away,
And come forth trembling from their forts.

47 All hail to the *Lord!* And blessed be my Rock!
And may the God of my deliverance be exalted!
48 The God who gives me vengeance,
And puts peoples in subjection under me;
49 Who frees me from my foes.
And thou dost exalt me above my adversaries;
From violent men thou dost rescue me.

50 Therefore I shall praise thee among the nations, O *Lord*,
And sing praises to thy name;
51 To him who gives great victories to his king,
And shows mercy to his anointed,
To David and his seed forever.

19

GOD'S PRAISE IN THE PHYSICAL AND MORAL UNIVERSE

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: A PSALM OF DAVID]

THE heavens are telling the glory of God,
And the sky shows forth the work of his hands.
2 Day unto day pours forth speech,
And night unto night declares knowledge.

3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
Their voice is not heard;
4 Yet their voice goes forth through all the earth,
And their words to the ends of the world.

5 He is like a bridegroom coming forth from his chamber,
And rejoices like a strong man to run the course;

6 From one end of the heavens is his starting-point,
And his circuit is to the other end;
And nothing is hid from the heat thereof.

7 The law of the *Lord* is perfect,
renewing the life,
The testimony of the *Lord* is trustworthy,
making wise the simple,
8 The precepts of the *Lord* are right,
rejoicing the heart,
The commandment of the *Lord* is pure,
enlightening the eyes;
9 The fear of the *Lord* is clean,
enduring forever.
The judgments of the *Lord* are true,
and they are also right;
10 They are more valuable than gold,
and much fine gold;
And sweeter than honey,
and the droppings of the honeycomb.

11 Thy servant also is instructed by them,
In keeping them there is great reward.
12 Who can discern his errors?
Of unconscious ones, hold me guiltless!
13 Moreover, restrain thy servant from wilful ones,
May they not rule over me!
Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be acquitted of much transgression.
14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable before thee,
O *Lord*, my rock and my avenger!

20

A PRAYER FOR VICTORY

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: A PSALM OF DAVID]

THE *Lord* answer you in the day of trouble!
The name of the God of Jacob set you on high!
2 May he send you help from the holy place,
And give you support from Zion!
3 May he keep in mind all your gifts,
And your burnt-offerings may he accept. *Selah*

4 May he grant you your heart's desire,
And fulfil all your plans!
5 May we shout with joy over your victory,
And in the name of our God set up our standards!
May the *Lord* fulfil all your requests!

6 Now I know that the *Lord* will give victory to his anointed,
That he will answer him from his holy heavens,
Through the saving strength of his right hand.
7 Some are strong through chariots and some through horses,
But we, through the name of the *Lord*, our God.
8 They will bow down and fall;
But we shall arise and stand upright.
9 O *Lord*, give the king victory;
Do thou answer us when we call.

21

A HYMN OF PRAISE AND GRATITUDE

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: A PSALM OF DAVID]

IN THY strength, the king rejoices, O *Lord;*
And in thy victory, how greatly he exults!
2 Thou hast given him the desire of his heart;
And the petition of his lips thou hast not withheld. *Selah*

3 For thou dost send goodly blessings to meet him,
Thou dost place upon his head a crown of gold.
4 He asked life of thee—thou hast given it to him,
Long life, forever and ever.

5 His glory is great through thy help;
Praise and honor thou layest upon him.
6 Thou dost make him blessed forever;
Thou dost gladden him with joy in thy presence.

7 For the king trusts in the *Lord;*
And, through the goodness of the Most High, he will never be moved.

8 Your hand will find all your foes.
Your right hand will find those that hate you.
9 You will put them in an oven of fire,
When you show your face.

10 The *Lord* in his anger will destroy them,
And fire will consume them.
11 Their offspring you will destroy from the earth,
And their progeny from among the sons of men.

12 When they plan evil against you,
And devise malice, they shall not succeed.

13 You will make them turn their backs with your bow-strings,
You will aim at their faces.

14 Arise, O *Lord*, in thy strength,
That we may sing and play of thy power.

22

THE CRY OF A DESOLATE SPIRIT

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: UPON *Aijeleth hash-Shahar.*
A PSALM OF DAVID]

MY GOD, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?
And why art thou far from helping me, at the words of my wailing?
2 My God, I cry by day, but thou dost not answer;
And by night, and get no rest.

3 Yet thou art holy;
The praise of Israel will endure.
4 In thee our fathers trusted;
They trusted and thou didst deliver them.
5 Unto thee they cried and were set free;
In thee they trusted and were not disgraced.

6 But I am a worm and not a man,
A shame to mankind, and despised of the people.
7 All who see me make sport of me;
They make mouths at me and toss their heads:
8 "Let him rejoice in the *Lord;* let him deliver him;
Let him rescue him; for he is pleased with him."

9 Yet thou hast been my refuge from the womb;
Thou didst give me security on my mother's breast.
10 Upon thee was I cast from birth;
From my mother's womb thou hast been my God.
11 Do not stay far from me;
For trouble is near;
For there is none to help.

12 Strong bulls surround me;
Mighty ones of Bashan encircle me.
13 They open wide their mouths at me,
Like a ravening and roaring lion.

14 I am poured out like water,
And all my bones are disjointed.
My heart is like wax,
Melted in the midst of my bosom.

15 My strength is dried up like a potsherd,
And my tongue cleaves to my palate;
And thou dost lay me in the dust of death.
16 For dogs have surrounded me,
A gang of villains encircles me.
They have bound my hands and my feet.

17 They dislocate all my bones;
They look, they stare at me.
18 They distribute my garments among them,
And over my robe they cast lots.

19 But, thou, O *Lord*, be not far off;
O my strength, hasten to my aid.
20 Deliver my life from the sword,
My only one from the power of the dog.

21 Save me from the lion's mouth,
And my afflicted self from the horns of the wild ox.
22 Then will I publish thy name to my brethren;
In the midst of the assembly I will praise thee.

23 You who fear the *Lord* praise him!
All you children of Jacob honor him!
Stand in awe of him all you children of Israel;
24 Because he has not despised, nor has he loathed the affliction of the afflicted;
Nor has he hidden his face from him;
But he has listened when he cried to him for aid.

25 From thee is my praise in the great assembly;
In the presence of those who fear him I will pay my vows.
26 The humble will eat and be satisfied;
Those who seek the *Lord* will praise him.
May your heart live forever!

27 All the ends of the earth will remember and turn unto the *Lord;*
All the clans of the nations will worship before him.
28 For the kingdom belongs to the *Lord;*
And he rules over the nations.

29 Him alone will all the fat ones of the earth worship;
Before him all those who go down to the dust will bow;
For none keeps himself alive.
30 The descendants will serve him.
May it be told of the Lord to the coming generation,
And may they tell of his righteousness to the people that shall be born,
That he has wrought it.

23

THE GOOD SHEPHERD

[A PSALM OF DAVID]

THE *Lord* is my shepherd; I shall not want;
2 In green meadows he makes me lie down;
To refreshing waters he leads me.
3 He gives me new life.
He guides me in safe paths, for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk in the darkest valley,
I fear no harm; for thou art with me.
Thy rod and thy staff—they comfort me.
5 Thou layest a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup overflows.
6 Only goodness and grace will follow me all the days of my life.
And I shall dwell in the house of the *Lord* down to old age.

24

THE GLORY OF GOD AND THE GOOD MAN

[A PSALM OF DAVID]

THE earth is the *Lord's* and its fulness,
The world and those who dwell therein.
2 For he founded it upon the seas,
And established it upon the ocean-currents.

3 Who can ascend into the hill of the *Lord?*
And who can stand in his holy place?

4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
Who has had no desire for falsehood,
And has not sworn to a lie.
5 He will receive a blessing from the *Lord*,
And justification from the God of his deliverance.
6 This is the generation of those who search for him,
Who seek the face of the God of Jacob. *Selah*

7 Lift up your heads, O gates,
And lift up yourselves, O ancient doors,
That the king of glory may come in.
8 Who, then, is the king of glory?
The *Lord* strong and mighty,
The *Lord* mighty in battle!

9 Lift up your heads, O gates!
And lift up yourselves, O ancient doors,
That the king of glory may come in!
10 Who, then, is the king of glory?
The *Lord* of hosts,
He is the king of glory! *Selah*

25

A PRAYER FOR DIVINE HELP

[OF DAVID]

א

UNTO thee, O *Lord*, do I lift up my desire.

ב

2 My God, in thee have I trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Let not my foes exult.

ג

3 Indeed, let none that wait upon thee be put to shame;
May they be put to shame who have been deceitful
without cause.

ד

4 Thy ways, O *Lord*, make me know;
Teach me thy paths.

ה,ו

5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me;
For thou art the God of my help;
Upon thee do I hope continually.

ז

6 Remember thy mercy, O *Lord*, and thy kindness,
For they have been from of old.

ח

7 The sins of my youth and my offenses do not remember;
In accordance with thy kindness, do thou remember
me,
For thy goodness' sake, O *Lord*.

ט

8 Good and upright is the *Lord*,
Therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

י

9 He leads the meek in justice,
And he teaches the meek his way.

כ

10 All the paths of the *Lord* are kindness and truth,
For those who observe his covenant and his commands.

ל

11 For thy name's sake, O *Lord*,
Pardon my guilt, though it is great.

מ

12 What man is there that fears the *Lord?*
He will teach him in the way that he must choose.

נ

13 He will dwell in good times,
And his descendants will possess the land.

ס

14 The secret of the *Lord* is for those who fear him,
And it is his agreement to teach it to them.

ע

15 My eyes are constantly with the *Lord*,
That he may bring forth my feet from the net.

פ

16 Turn unto me and have mercy upon me,
For I am lonely and afflicted.

צ

17 Enlarge the straits of my heart,
And lead me forth from my distresses.

ק

18 See my affliction and my trouble,
And forgive all my sins.

ר

19 See my foes, that they are many;
And they hate me with a violent hatred.

ש

20 Preserve me and rescue me;
Let me not be put to shame; for I take refuge in thee.

ת

21 Let blamelessness and uprightness protect me,
For I hope in thee.

22 Redeem Israel, O God,
From all its straits.

26

THE CLAIMS OF THE RIGHTEOUS

[OF DAVID]

GIVE me justice, O *Lord*, for I have walked in my integrity.
And I have trusted in the *Lord*, without wavering.
2 Try me, O *Lord*, and test me,
Examine my mind and my heart.

3 For thy kindness is before my eyes,
And I have walked in thy truth.
4 I do not sit with faithless men,
Nor with dissemblers do I go in.

5 I hate the company of evildoers,
And with the wicked I will not sit down.
6 I wash my hands in innocence,
And encircle thy altar, O *Lord*,
7 To proclaim with a voice of praise,
And to recount all thy wonders.

8 O *Lord*, I have loved the habitation of thy house,
And the place where thy glory dwells.
9 Take me not away along with sinners,
Nor my life along with men of blood,
10 In whose hands is an evil purpose,
And whose right hand is full of bribes.

11 But as for me, I walk in my integrity.
Deliver me and be gracious to me.
12 My foot stands upon level ground.
In the congregations I bless the *Lord*.

27

A SONG OF ASSURANCE

[OF DAVID]

THE *Lord* is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The *Lord* is the refuge of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When evildoers pressed in upon me,
to eat up my flesh,
My adversaries and my foes,
they stumbled and fell.

3 Though a host encamp against me,
my heart will not fear;
Though war arise against me,
in this will I be confident.

4 One thing I ask from the *Lord*,
that do I seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the *Lord*
all the days of my life,
To gaze upon the grace of the *Lord*,
and to inquire in his temple.

5 For he will hide me in his pavilion,
in the day of trouble;
He will conceal me in his secret tent,
he will set me up upon a rock.

6 And now my head is high
above my foes on every side;
And I will sacrifice in his tent
sacrifices with shouts.
I will sing and make music to the *Lord*.

7 Hear, O my *Lord*, my voice with which I cry;
be gracious to me and answer me.
8 Concerning thee my heart says,
"seek you my face!"
Thy face, O *Lord*, do I seek;
hide not thy face from me.

9 Turn not thy servant away in anger;
thou hast been my help.
Cast me not off, neither forsake me,
O God of my salvation!

10 If my father and my mother forsake me,
then the *Lord* will take me up.
11 Teach me thy way, O *Lord*,
And guide me in a level path,
because of my enemies.

12 Yield me not to the desire of my foes;
For false witnesses are risen up against me,
and such as breathe forth violence.
13 I believe that I shall see the goodness of the *Lord*
in the land of the living.

14 Hope thou upon the *Lord*.
Be strong and keep a stout heart;
And hope thou upon the *Lord*.

28

A PRAYER FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF THE WICKED

[OF DAVID]

UPON thee, O *Lord*, do I call;
O my rock, be not deaf to me;
Lest, because thou payest no heed to me,
I become like those who go down to the pit.

2 Hear the voice of my supplication,
when I cry to thee for help,
When I lift up my hands unto thy holy shrine.
3 Snatch me not away with the wicked,
and with those who do wrong,
Who offer friendly greetings to their neighbors,
while evil is in their hearts.

4 Render to them according to their work,
and according to their evil deeds.
According to the work of their hands render to them;
pay back to them what they have done.
5 Because they do not give heed to the works of the *Lord*,
and to the work of his hands,
He will tear them down and not build them up.

6 Blessed be the *Lord!* For he has heard
the voice of my supplications.
7 The *Lord* is my strength and my shield;
in him my heart has trusted;
And I have been helped and my heart exults,
and with my song I praise him.

8 The *Lord* is the strength of his people and a refuge;
the victory of his anointed is he.
9 Give victory to thy people,
and bless thy inheritance;
And shepherd them and carry them evermore.

29

THE GOD OF THE STORM

[A PSALM OF DAVID]

ASCRIBE unto the *Lord*, O sons of the gods,
Ascribe unto the *Lord* glory and strength.
2 Ascribe unto the *Lord* the glory of his name;
Worship the *Lord* in holy array.

3 The voice of the *Lord* is above the waters;
The God of glory thunders.
The *Lord* is over the great waters,
4 The voice of the *Lord* is mighty,
The voice of the *Lord* is majestic.

5 The voice of the *Lord* breaks the cedars,
And the *Lord* shatters the cedars of Lebanon.
6 He makes them skip like a calf,
Lebanon and Sirion like a young wild-ox.

7 The voice of the *Lord* hews out flames of fire.
8 The voice of the *Lord* makes the desert whirl,
The *Lord* whirls the desert of Kadesh.
9 The voice of the *Lord* whirls the terebinths,
And strips the forests bare.
While in his palace everything says, "Glory!"

10 The *Lord* sits over the flood,
The *Lord* sits as king forever.
11 The *Lord* gives strength to his people;
The *Lord* blesses his people with peace.

30

PRAISE FOR THE HELP OF THE LORD

[A PSALM; SONG OF THE DEDICATION OF THE HOUSE; OF DAVID]

I WILL extol thee, O *Lord*, for thou hast drawn me forth,
And hast not let my foes rejoice over me.
2 O *Lord*, my God, I cried for help unto thee,
And thou didst heal me.
3 O *Lord*, thou hast brought me up from Sheol,
Thou hast revived me from among those who go down to the pit.

4 Sing praises to the *Lord*, O you his pious ones,
And praise his holy name.
5 For though there be a moment in his wrath, there is life in his favor.
Weeping may lodge with us at evening, but in the morning there is a shout of joy.

6 But I said in my security,
"I shall never be moved."
7 O *Lord*, by thy favor thou hast made my mountain to stand strong;
Thou didst hide thy face; I was dismayed.
8 Unto thee, O *Lord*, I called;
And unto the Lord I made supplication:

9 "What profit is there in my blood, when I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise thee? Will it declare thy faithfulness?
10 Hear, O *Lord*, and be gracious to me.
O *Lord*, be thou my helper."

11 Thou hast turned my mourning into dancing.
Thou hast put off my sackcloth and girded me with gladness.
12 In order that my honor may praise thee and not be silent,
O *Lord*, my God, I will evermore praise thee.

31

MINGLED PRAYER AND PRAISE

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: A PSALM OF DAVID]

IN THEE, O *Lord*, I have taken refuge;
Let me nevermore be put to shame;
Through thy justification, deliver me!
2 Bow down thy ear to me,
Quickly rescue me!
Become for me a rock of refuge,
A mountain-fort to save me!

3 For thou art my rock and my fortress;
And for thy name's sake thou wilt lead me and guide me.
4 Thou wilt bring me forth from the net which they have laid for me;
For thou art my refuge.

5 Into thy hand I commit my spirit.
Thou wilt redeem me, O *Lord*, thou faithful God.

6 I hate them that pay regard to false vanities.
But I myself have trusted in the *Lord*.
7 I will exult and rejoice in thy grace,
For thou hast seen my affliction,
Thou hast taken heed of my straits.
8 And thou hast not delivered me into the hand of the foe;
But hast established my feet upon a broad place.

9 Be gracious unto me, O *Lord*, for I am in trouble;
Through grief my eye is weakened,
myself and my body.
10 For my life is consumed in sorrow,
and my years in groaning.
My strength has failed through my affliction,
and my bones have wasted away.

11 I am become an object of reproach from all my foes,
a thing of dread to my neighbors,
A terror to my acquaintances who see me on the street;
they flee from me.
12 I am forgotten like a dead man; out of mind,
like a lost article am I;
13 For I hear the remark of many,
"terror on every side,"
When they counsel together against me;
They plan to take my life.

14 But I have trusted in thee, O *Lord;*
I have said, "Thou art my God;

15 My times are in thy hand.
Rescue me from the hand of my foes and those who pursue me;
16 Let thy face shine upon thy servant;
Deliver me through thy grace.

17 "O *Lord*, let me not be put to shame
for I have called upon thee;
Let the wicked be put to shame;
let them wait for Sheol.
18 May lying lips be made dumb,
Those that speak insolence against the righteous,
in pride and scorn.

19 "How great is thy goodness which thou hast in store for those who fear thee,
Which thou hast wrought for those relying upon thee, in the presence of the sons of men.
20 Thou dost secrete them in the secret of thy presence from the plottings of man.
Thou dost shelter them in thy pavilion from the strife of tongues."

21 Blessed be the *Lord!* For he showed me his wonderful kindness
in a besieged city.
22 I said in my alarm,
"I am cut off from before thy eyes."
But thou didst hear the voice of my supplication,
when I cried to thee for aid.
23 Love the *Lord*, O all you his pious ones;
The *Lord* preserves the faithful;
But he requites to excess him who acts haughtily.

24 Be strong, and let your heart be firm,
All you who wait for the *Lord*.

32
THE BLESSED LOT OF THE PIOUS

[OF DAVID. A *maskil*]

OH, THE happiness of him whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered!
2 Oh, the happiness of the man to whom the *Lord* charges no guilt,
And in whose spirit there is no guile!
3 When I kept silent my bones wasted away
Through my groaning all day long.
4 For, day and night, thy hand lay heavy upon me;
My sap was turned into the drought of summer. *Selah*

5 My sin I declared to thee, and my guilt I have not concealed.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the *Lord*."
And thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin. *Selah*

6 Therefore let every pious man pray to thee:
That in the time of distress, in the rush of great waters,
They may not reach him.
7 Thou art my hiding-place; from the foe thou guardest me.
Thou dost surround me with deliverance.

8 I will instruct thee and show thee the way which thou must go;
I will counsel thee, with my eye upon thee.
9 Be not like a horse or a mule, without sense,
With bridle and bit must his temper be restrained
That he come not near to you.

10 The wicked has many sorrows,
But him who trusts in the *Lord* he surrounds with kindness.
11 Rejoice in the *Lord* and exult, O righteous,
And shout for joy, all you who are right-minded.

33

THE LORD OF ALL CREATION

REJOICE in the *Lord*, O righteous ones,
Praise befits the upright.
2 Praise the *Lord* with the harp;
Play to him on the ten-stringed lute.
3 Sing unto him a new song;
Play skilfully with glad shouts.

4 For the word of the *Lord* is right,
And all his work is faithful.
5 He loves righteousness and justice.
The earth is full of the goodness of the *Lord*.

6 By the word of the *Lord* the heavens were founded;
And by the breath of his mouth all their host.
7 He gathers the waters of the sea as in a waterskin,
He puts the deeps in storehouses.

8 Let all the earth fear the *Lord;*
Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.
9 For he spoke and it was!
He commanded and it stood fast!

10 The *Lord* annuls the counsel of the nations,
He frustrates the plans of the peoples.

11 But the counsel of the *Lord* stands forever,
The plans of his heart for age upon age.
12 How happy is the nation whose God is the *Lord*,
The people that he has chosen as his heritage.

13 The *Lord* looks down from the heavens,
He sees all the children of men.
14 From the place of his dwelling he looks forth
Upon all the inhabitants of the earth;
15 He who fashions the hearts of them all,
Who considers all their deeds.

16 The king is not saved by the size of his army;
A warrior is not rescued by his great strength.
17 The horse is a delusion for victory;
And he does not deliver by his great strength.

18 So the eye of the *Lord* is upon those who fear him,
Those who wait for his goodness,
19 To rescue them from death,
And to keep them alive in famine.

20 We wait upon the *Lord;*
He is our help and our shield;
21 For our heart rejoices in him,
For in his holy name we trust.

22 May thy goodness, O *Lord*, be over us,
According as we hope in thee.

34

THE GOODNESS OF GOD

[OF DAVID; WHEN HE CHANGED HIS BEHAVIOR BEFORE ABIMELECH, SO THAT HE DROVE HIM OUT AND HE DEPARTED]

א

I BLESS the *Lord* at all times,
His praise is constantly in my mouth.

ב

2 I glory in the *Lord;*
Let the pious hear and rejoice.

ג

3 Magnify the *Lord* with me,
And let us all exalt his name.

ד

4 I sought the *Lord* and he answered me,
And delivered me from all my terrors.

ה,ו

5 Look at me, and so be jubilant,
And let not your faces be abashed:

ז

6 This poor man called and the *Lord* heard,
And delivered him from all his troubles.

ח

7 The angel of the *Lord* encamps
Around those who fear him, and rescues them.

ט

8 Taste and see that the *Lord* is good.
How happy is the man who takes refuge in him!

י

9 Fear the *Lord*, you his holy ones,
For those who fear him feel no lack.

כ

10 Young lions do lack, and suffer hunger;
But those who seek the *Lord* lack no good thing.

ל

11 Come, children, listen to me,
And I will teach you reverence for the *Lord*.

מ

12 What man is there who desires life,
Who loves length of days that he may see good?

נ

13 Keep your tongue from evil
And your lips from telling lies;

ס

14 Depart from evil and do good;
Seek peace, and pursue it.

ע

15 The eyes of the *Lord* are upon the righteous,
And his ears are open to their cry.

פ

16 The face of the *Lord* is against those who do evil,
That he may cut off the memory of them from the earth.

צ

17 They call and the *Lord* hears,
And he rescues them from all their troubles.

ק

18 The *Lord* is near to the broken-hearted,
And he delivers those who are crushed in spirit.

ר

19 Many are the ills of the righteous,
But from them all the *Lord* delivers him.

ש

20 He guards all his bones,
So that not one of them is broken.

ת

21 Evil will slay the wicked;
And those who hate the righteous will be held guilty.
22 The *Lord* will redeem the life of his servants,
And none who take refuge in him will be held guilty.

35

A PRAYER FOR VENGEANCE

[OF DAVID]

OPPOSE, O *Lord*, my opponents;
Fight those who fight me.
2 Lay hold of buckler and shield,
And rise up to my help.
3 Draw the spear and battle-ax to meet my pursuers;
Say to me, "I am thy deliverance."

4 May they be put to shame and confusion that seek my life;
May they be turned back and disgraced who plan evil against me.
5 May they be like chaff before the wind,
With the angel of the *Lord* chasing them.
6 May their road be darkness and slipperiness,
With the angel of the *Lord* pursuing them.

7 For without cause they hid their net for me;
Without cause they dug a pit for me.
8 May destruction come upon him unawares;
And may the net which he has hidden catch him himself;
In destruction may he fall therein!

9 But I shall exult in the *Lord*,
And rejoice in his deliverance.
10 All my bones will say,
"O *Lord*, who is like thee,
Saving the poor from him that is too strong for him,
The poor and the needy from him that would rob him?"

11 Malicious witnesses rise up
Who ask me regarding that of which I know nothing.
12 They requite me evil for good,
For my personal bereavement.
13 For I, when they were sick—my clothing was sackcloth,
I afflicted myself by fasting,
And my prayer returned to my own lap.
14 As though it were my friend or brother I went about;
As in sorrow for a mother I bowed down mourning.

15 But at my fall they rejoice and gather together,
Smiters gather together against me and I know not,
They rend without ceasing.
16 When I assert my friendship they jeer scornfully,
Gnashing at me with their teeth.
17 O Lord, how long wilt thou look on?
Draw me back from the roaring ones,
My solitary self from the young lions.

18 I will thank thee in the great assembly,
Among a mighty people will I praise thee.

19 Let not those who are my foes wrongfully rejoice over me,
Nor those who hate me without cause wink the eye.
20 For they do not speak peace,
But against those who are at ease in the land
They devise treacherous things.
21 And they open wide their mouths against me.
They say, "Aha, Aha, our eye sees it!"

22 Thou hast seen, O *Lord;* be not silent!
O Lord, remove not far from me!
23 Bestir thyself and rise up to do me justice,
My God and my Lord, to plead my cause!
24 Do me justice in accordance with thy righteousness, O *Lord*, my God!
And let them not rejoice over me!

25 May they not say to themselves, "Aha, our desire!"
May they not say, "We have swallowed him up."
26 May they be put to shame and disgraced
Who rejoice over my calamity;
May they be clothed with shame and disgrace
Who magnify themselves against me.
27 May they shout for joy and be glad who are pleased at my vindication.
And may they continually say, "The *Lord* is great,
Who desires the welfare of his servant."
28 Then my tongue will proclaim thy righteousness,
And thy praise all the day long.

36

THE GOODNESS OF GOD AND THE SIN OF THE WICKED

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: OF THE SERVANT OF THE *Lord*, OF DAVID]

TRANSGRESSION is delightful to the wicked within his heart;
There is no dread of God before his eyes.
2 For it deceives him in his own eyes,
Concerning the finding out of his guilt and the hatred of it.
3 The words of his mouth are wrong and deceit;
He has ceased to be wise and to do good.
4 He plans wrongdoing while in bed;
He takes his stand on a way that is not good.
He does not despise wickedness.

5 O *Lord*, thy goodness extends to the heavens,
Thy faithfulness unto the clouds.
6 Thy righteousness is like the mountains of God,
Thy judgments are a great deep.
Thou savest man and beast, O *Lord*.

7 How precious is thy goodness, O God!
And the children of men take refuge under the shadow of thy wings.
8 They drink their fill of the fatness of thy house,
And thou givest them drink of the stream of thy pleasures.

9 For with thee is the fountain of life;
Through thy light do we see light.

10 Continue thy goodness to those that know thee,
And thy justification to the right-minded.

11 May the foot of pride not come upon me,
Nor the hand of the wicked drive me out.
12 There the workers of wrong are fallen;
They are overthrown and cannot rise up.

37

GOD'S CARE FOR THE PIOUS

[OF DAVID]

א

FRET not yourself because of evildoers,
Be not incensed because of wrongdoers;
2 For they will soon wither like grass,
And fade away like the green herb.

ב

3 Trust in the *Lord* and do good;
Inhabit the land and move about in security.
Take your delight in the *Lord*,
And he will give you the desire of your heart.

ג

4 Commit your way unto the *Lord*,
And trust in him; and he will act.
5 He will bring forth your right like the light,
And your just cause like the noonday.

ד

6 Wait patiently for the *Lord* and hope in him;
Fret not yourself because of him who makes his way prosper,
Him who succeeds in his plans.

ה

7 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath.
Fret not yourself; it does nothing but harm.
8 For evildoers will be cut off;
While those who wait upon the *Lord* will possess the land.

ו

9 Yet a little while and the wicked will be no more;
Though you look hard at his place, he will not be there.
10 But the meek will possess the land,
And rejoice in abundant prosperity.

ז

11 Though the wicked plot against the innocent,
And gnash his teeth at him,
12 The Lord laughs at him;
For he sees that his day will come.

ח

13 The wicked draw the sword and bend their bow,
To bring down the poor and needy,
To slay those whose way is right.
14 Their sword will enter their own hearts,
And their bows will be broken.

ט

15 Better is the little of the righteous
Than the wealth of many wicked.
16 For the resources of the wicked will be broken,
But the *Lord* supports the righteous.

י

17 The *Lord* knows the days of the innocent,
And their possession abides forever.
18 They will not be put to shame in bad times,
And in the time of famine they will be satisfied.

כ

19 For the wicked will perish;
And the enemies of the *Lord*, who walk haughtily,
Will vanish like smoke.

ל

20 If the wicked borrows, he does not pay back;
But the righteous is generous and gives.
21 Those who bless him will possess the land,
But those who curse him will be cut off.

מ

22 The steps of a man are from the *Lord*,
And he establishes him with whose way he is pleased.
23 Though he fall, he will not lie prostrate,
For the *Lord* holds his hand.

נ

24 I have been young, and now I am old;
But I have not seen the righteous forsaken,
Nor his descendants begging their bread.
25 He is always generous and ever lending,
And his offspring becomes a blessing.

ס

26 Shun evil and do good,
So shall you abide forever.
27 For the *Lord* loves the right,
And he does not desert his saints.

ע

They are kept forever,
But the offspring of the wicked is cut off.
28 The upright will possess the land,
And will dwell therein forever.

פ

29 The mouth of the upright utters wisdom,
And his tongue speaks justice.
30 The law of his God is in his heart,
His steps do not slip.

צ

31 When the wicked spies upon the upright,
And seeks to kill him,
32 The *Lord* will not deliver him into his hand,
Nor will he declare him guilty when he is brought to trial.

ק

33 Wait for the *Lord*, and keep his way;
And he will exalt you to possess the land.
You will gaze upon the destruction of the wicked.

ר

34 I saw the wicked triumphing,
And towering aloft like the cedar of Lebanon;
35 But I passed by and lo, he was not!
And when I sought for him he was not to be found.

ש

36 Watch integrity and look upon right;
For there is a posterity for the man of peace.
37 But lawbreakers are wholly destroyed.
The posterity of the wicked is cut off.

ת

38 The help of the innocent comes from the *Lord;*
Their strength is he in time of need.
39 The *Lord* helps them and rescues them;
He rescues them from the wicked and makes them victorious;
Because they trust in him.

38

A PRAYER OF ONE IN GREAT TROUBLE

[A PSALM OF DAVID. TO MAKE A MEMORIAL]

DO NOT reprove me in thy wrath, O *Lord*,
Nor correct me in thy fury.
2 For thy arrows have sunk deep into me,
And thy hand has come down upon me.

3 There is no soundness in my flesh because of thy anger;
There is no health in my bones because of my sin.
4 For my guilt has passed over my head,
Like a heavy load it is too heavy for me.

5 My wounds are fetid, they fester,
Because of my folly.
6 I am bent, I am bowed down exceedingly;
I go about mourning all day long.

7 For my loins are full of inflammation,
And there is no soundness in my flesh.
8 I am benumbed and badly crushed;
I groan because of the moan of my heart.

9 O *Lord*, all my desire is before thee,
And my sighing is not hidden from thee.
10 My heart palpitates; my strength has left me;
Even the light of my eyes is not with me.

11 Those who love me and my friends stand back from my plague.
And my kinsmen stand afar off.

12 They that seek my life lay snares for me,
And those who desire my harm speak of ruin,
And they meditate deceit all day long.

13 But I, like a deaf man, hear not;
And I am like a dumb man who does not open his mouth.
14 I am like a man that does not hear,
And one in whose mouth there are no arguments.

15 But for thee, O *Lord*, do I wait;
Thou wilt answer, O Lord, my God!
16 For I think, "Else will they rejoice over me;
When my foot slips, they will magnify themselves against me."

17 For I am ready for a fall,
And my grief is ever before me.
18 I am in horror of my guilt;
I am sorry for my sin.

19 My foes without reason are numerous;
Many are those that hate me falsely,
20 And render me evil for good;
They oppose me because I follow after good.

21 Do not forsake me, O *Lord;*
My God, be not far from me!
Hasten to my assistance;
O Lord, to my rescue!

39

A PLEA FOR MERCY TOWARD A MAN OF FLEETING EXISTENCE

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: FOR *jeduthun*.
A PSALM OF DAVID]

I SAID, "I will watch my ways
That I may not sin with my tongue;
I will put a muzzle on my mouth,
As long as the wicked is before me."
2 I was dumb in silence;
I refrained from good,
And my pain was aroused.
3 My heart burned within me;
While I meditated, a fire kindled;
I spoke with my tongue:

4 "O *Lord*, teach me my end,
And what is the extent of my days;
Let me know how I shall end.
5 Lo, thou hast fixed my days but as handbreadths,
And my lifetime is as nothing before thee;
As a mere breath every man stands. *Selah*
6 As but a shadow a man walks;
As but a breath he bestirs himself.
He heaps up and knows not who will gather it in.

7 "And now for what do I wait, O *Lord?*
My hope is in thee!
8 From all my transgressions deliver me!
Make me not the scorn of the reprobate.
9 I am dumb; I do not open my mouth;
For it is thou who hast done it.

10 Remove thy plague from me;
By the blows of thy hand I perish.
11 With corrections for guilt thou dost chastise a man.
And thou dost wipe out his desire like a cobweb.
Verily, all men are but a breath. *Selah*

12 "Hear my prayer, O *Lord*,
And give heed to my cry!
Be not unresponsive to my tears;
For I am a guest with thee,
A sojourner, like all my ancestors.
13 Turn thy gaze away from me, that I may be glad,
Before I go away and be no more."

40

A PRAYER FOR SPEEDY RELIEF FROM TROUBLE

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: A PSALM OF DAVID]

I WAITED patiently for the *Lord*,
And he paid heed to me and heard my plea.
2 So he drew me up from the pit of ruin,
from the miry swamp;
And he set my feet upon a rock,
establishing my steps.
3 And he put a new song in my mouth,
praise to our God.
Many will see and be afraid,
and will trust in the *Lord*.

4 How happy is the man who has made
the *Lord* his trust,
And has not turned after idolaters,
and lying apostates.

5 Thou hast done great things,
O *Lord* my God;
Wonderful are thy thoughts toward us;
there is none to compare with thee.
Were I to declare and tell them,
they are too many to enumerate.

6 Sacrifice and offering thou dost not desire
(Thou hast opened my ears);
Burnt-offering and sin-offering thou dost not demand.
7 Then said I, "Lo, I come
(In the roll of a book which was written for me).
8 I delight to do thy will, O my God;
And thy law is in my very heart.

9 "I have proclaimed thy vindication in the great assembly.
Lo, I do not close my lips;
O *Lord*, thou knowest.
10 Thy vindication I have not concealed within my heart;
Thy faithfulness and thy victory I have told.
I have not withheld thy grace and thy fidelity from the great assembly.
11 Do thou, O *Lord*, not restrain thy mercy from me.
May thy grace and thy fidelity always protect me.

12 "For sins beyond number beset me,
My offenses have overtaken me, so that I cannot see.
They are more numerous than the hairs of my head;
And my heart has failed me.
13 Be pleased, O *Lord*, to rescue me;
O *Lord*, haste to my help.

14 "May they be both ashamed and abashed who seek to
take away my life;
May they be turned back and routed who desire my
ruin.
15 May they be appalled by reason of their shame,
Who say to me, 'Aha, Aha!'

16 "May all those who seek thee rejoice,
and be glad in thee.
May those who love thy deliverance continually say,
'Great is the *Lord*.'
17 Since I am poor and needy,
Hasten to me, O Lord!
Thou art my help and my deliverer;
O my God, do not tarry."

41

A PRAYER FOR VENGEANCE

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: A PSALM OF DAVID]

HOW happy is he who is considerate of the weak;
In the day of trouble the *Lord* delivers him.
2 The *Lord* protects him and keeps him alive;
He is called happy in the land.
Thou wilt not give him over to the rage of his foes;
3 The *Lord* sustains him upon his sickbed.
All his bed thou hast changed in his illness.

4 I say, "Have mercy on me, O *Lord!*
Heal me; for I have sinned against thee!"
5 My foes say evil of me,
"How long till he die, and his name perish?"

6 If he comes to see me, he speaks lies;
His heart lays up malice;
He goes outside and talks.
7 All who hate me whisper together against me.
They devise evil against me.

8 An evil deed they plot against him,
That when he lies down, he may not rise up again.
9 Even my friend in whom I trusted,
He who ate my bread, has acted deceitfully against me.

10 But thou, O *Lord*, be gracious to me and raise me up,
That I may repay them!
11 By this I shall know that thou art pleased with me,
In that my foe does not triumph over me.
12 But as for me, because of my integrity thou dost maintain me,
And thou dost set me before thee evermore.

13 Blessed be the *Lord*, the God of Israel,
From everlasting to everlasting.
Amen and amen.

BOOK II

PSS. 42–72

42–43

A SONG OF ASSURANCE

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: A *maskil* OF THE SONS OF KORAH]

AS A deer longs for the water-courses,
So my whole being longs for thee, O God.
2 My whole being thirsts for God, for the living God:
How long till I come and see the face of God?
3 My tears have been my food day and night,
While men say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"

4 These things I ponder upon and pour out my very self:
That I went in the company of the nobles to the house of God,
With the sound of jubilation and praise—a festal crowd.
5 Why art thou brought low, O my spirit?
And why dost thou murmur within me?
Wait thou for God; for I shall again praise him,
The shelter of my countenance and my God.

6 My spirit is brought low within me;
Therefore do I think of thee from the land of the Jordan,
And the Hermons, from the hill Mizar.
7 Deep calls to deep to the sound of thy waterfalls;
All thy waves and thy billows pass over me.
8 By day the *Lord* orders his grace,
And by night his song is with me,
A prayer to the God of my life.

9 I say to God, my rock, "Why hast thou forgotten me?
Why do I go mourning because of oppression by the foe?"
10 With piercing pain my enemies reproach me,
While they say unto me all day long, "Where is your God?"
11 Why art thou brought low, O my spirit,
And why dost thou murmur within me?
Wait thou for God; for I shall again praise him,
The salvation of my countenance and my God.

43:1 Do me justice, O God, and plead my case!
From a godless people, from deceitful and wicked men do thou release me.
2 For thou, O God of my fortress, why hast thou cast me off?
Why do I walk in mourning because of the oppression of the foe?
3 Send forth thy light and thy faithfulness; may they guide me,
May they bring me to thy holy hill, and to thy dwelling-place.
4 May I go to the altar of God, to God my highest joy;
And may I praise thee with the lute, O God my God.
5 Why art thou brought low, O my spirit;
And why dost thou murmur within me?
Wait thou for God; for I shall again praise him,
The salvation of my countenance and my God.

44

AN APPEAL TO THE JUSTICE OF GOD

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: OF THE SONS
OF KORAH; A *maskil*]

O GOD, we have heard with our ears,
Our fathers have told us,
The work that thou didst in their days, in days of old.
2 Thou didst dispossess the nations by thy hand, but them thou didst implant.
Thou didst break up the peoples, but them thou didst spread abroad.
3 For not by their sword did they seize the land,
Nor did their own arm give them victory,
4 But thy right hand and thy arm,
And the light of thy countenance; for thou wast gracious to them.

5 It is thou, my king, O God,
Who orderest victory for Jacob.
6 Through thee we push down our foes;
Through thy name we trample upon our adversaries.
7 For not in my bow do I trust,
Nor does my sword bring me victory;
8 But thou hast saved us from our foes,
And hast put to shame those that hate us.
9 In God we have made our boast continually,
And thy name we will praise forever. *Selah*

10 Yet thou hast spurned and brought us to shame
And thou dost not go forth with our armies.

11 Thou dost turn us back from the foe,
And those who hate us have taken spoil for themselves.
12 Thou dost make us food like sheep;
And among the nations thou hast dispersed us.
13 Thou sellest thy people for nothing,
And dost not make much by their price.
14 Thou makest us a taunt to our neighbors,
A scorn and a derision to those around us.
15 Thou makest us a byword among the nations.
A laughingstock among the peoples.
16 All day long my disgrace is before me,
And shamefacedness covers me.
17 Because of the voice of the scoffer and the scorner,
Because of the enemy and the vengeful one.

18 All this has come upon us, though we have not forgotten thee,
Nor have we been false to thy covenant.
19 Our heart has not turned back,
Nor our step swerved from thy path.
20 Yet thou hast crushed us in the region of the jackals,
And covered us with thick darkness.
21 If we have forgotten the name of our God,
Or have spread forth our hands to a foreign god,
22 Does not God search this out?
For he knows the secrets of the heart.
23 But because of thee we are slain the whole day long,
We are counted as sheep for the slaughter.

24 Awake! Why sleepest thou, O Lord?
Arouse thyself; do not spurn us forever!
25 Wherefore dost thou hide thy face,
Forgetting our affliction and oppression?

26 For we are sunk down to the dust;
Our body cleaves to the earth.
27 Arise to our help;
And release us for thy goodness' sake.

45

A ROYAL MARRIAGE SONG

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: UPON *Shoshannim*, OF THE SONS OF KORAH; A *maskil;* A LOVE-SONG]

MY HEART is stirred by a good theme;
I say, "My work concerns a king;
My tongue is the pen of a rapid writer."

2 You are the most fair of the sons of men;
Grace is poured out through your lips;
Therefore God has blessed you evermore.
3 Gird your sword upon your thigh, O warrior;
Success to your praise and your majesty!
4 Ride on for the cause of truth and to hear the right;
And may your right hand show you wonders!
5 May your sharp arrows be in the midst of the king's foes!
May peoples fall under you!
6 Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever!
A righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

7 You love righteousness and hate wickedness;
Therefore has God, your God, anointed you
With the oil of gladness above your companions.
8 Myrrh and aloes and cassia are on all your garments;
From ivory palaces stringed instruments delight you.

9 Kings' daughters are among your treasures.
A princess stands at your right hand with gold from Ophir.

10 Hear, O daughter, and see; and incline your ear;
And forget your people and your father's house.
11 For the king desires your beauty;
He indeed is your lord—bow yourself before him!

12 The daughter of Tyre with an offering is before you;
The richest of the peoples court you.
13 All glorious is the king's daughter within;
Her clothing is embroidered with gold.
14 In brilliant colors she is brought to the king;
The virgins in her train, her companions, are brought to you.
15 With gladness and joy are they brought in;
They enter the palace of the king.

16 Instead of your fathers shall be your sons;
You will make them princes throughout the land.
17 I would extol your name through all generations;
Therefore peoples will praise you forever and ever.

46

THE MIGHTY GOD

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: OF THE SONS OF KORAH. UPON *alamoth*. A SONG]

GOD is our refuge and strength,
A well-proved help in trouble.
2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth totter,
And the mountains topple into the heart of the sea;

3 Though its waters roar and foam,
Though the mountains quake at its uproar. *Selah*

4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
The holiest habitation of the Most High;
5 God is in the midst of her; she will not totter.
God will help her at break of dawn.
6 The nations roar; the kingdoms totter;
He utters his voice—the earth melts.
7 The *Lord* of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our high tower.

8 Come, see the deeds of the *Lord*,
How he has wrought ruin in the earth!
9 He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth.
He breaks the bow and cuts off the lance;
The chariots he burns with fire.
10 Be still, and know that I am God.
I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth.
11 The *Lord* of Hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our high tower. *Selah*

47
THE VICTORIOUS GOD

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: OF THE SONS OF KORAH; A PSALM]

O ALL peoples, clap your hands!
Shout to God with a glad voice!
2 For the *Lord*, most high, is terrible,
A great king over all the earth.

3 He subjected peoples under us,
And put nations under our feet.
4 He chose our possession for us,
The pride of Jacob whom he loved. *Selah*
5 God went up with a shout,
The *Lord* with the sound of the trumpet.

6 Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our king, sing praises!
7 For God is king over the whole earth.
Sing praises with a *maskil.*
8 God rules over the nations;
God sits upon his holy throne.
9 The nobles of the peoples are assembled
With the people of the God of Abraham.
10 For the shields of the earth belong to God;
He is highly exalted.

48

THE FAITHFUL GOD

[A SONG: A PSALM OF THE SONS OF KORAH]

GREAT is the *Lord* and greatly to be praised,
In the city of our God, his holy hill.
2 Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth
Is the hill of Zion in the far north,
The city of the great king.
3 God, in her palaces,
Has shown himself a tower of strength.

4 For lo, the kings conspired together;
They became enraged also.

5 They saw; thereupon they were amazed;
They were overwhelmed, they fled in terror.
6 Panic seized them there,
Anguish as of one in travail.
7 By an east wind
Thou didst shatter the ships of Tarshish.
8 As we have heard, so have we seen,
In the city of the *Lord* of hosts,
In the city of our God—
God establishes her forever. *Selah*

9 We have pondered upon thy grace, O God,
In the midst of thy temple.
10 As thy name, O God, so also thy praise,
Reaches the ends of the earth.
Thy right hand is full of righteousness.

11 Let Mount Zion rejoice,
Let the daughters of Judah exult,
Because of thy judgments.
12 Encircle Zion and walk around her;
Count her towers;
13 Set your mind upon her wall;
Go through her palaces;
That you may tell the next generation,
14 That such is God,
Our God forever and ever.
He will guide us until death.

49

THE END OF ALL FLESH

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: OF THE SONS OF KORAH; A PSALM]

HEAR this, all you peoples;
Give heed, all you dwellers in the world,
2 Sons of men, and all mankind,
Both rich and poor.
3 My mouth speaks wisdom,
And my heart's meditation is insight.
4 I incline my ear to a proverb;
I solve my riddle on the lyre.

5 Why should I fear in days of trouble,
When the guilt of my foes surrounds me,
6 Those who trust in their wealth,
And boast of the abundance of their riches.
7 But no man can at all ransom himself,
Or give a price for himself to God;
8 For the ransom of the person is too costly,
That he should let go forever;
9 And that one should again live forever,
Not seeing the pit.

10 Indeed, he sees it! Wise men die;
Both fool and brutish perish;
And they leave their wealth to others.
11 Their graves are their houses forever,
Their dwellings for one generation after another.
They call lands by their own names.
12 But man is an ox without understanding,
He is like the beasts that perish.

13 This is the fate of those who are self-sufficient,
And the end of those who are satisfied with their own words:
14 Like sheep they are appointed to Sheol;
Death shepherds them, and drives them on,
Hurling them into the grave.
Soon their form must decay;
Sheol is their dwelling.
15 But God will ransom me
From the power of Sheol, when it seizes me. *Selah*

16 Fear not when a man gets rich,
When the splendor of his house increases;
17 For he will take nothing with him when he dies;
His splendor will not go down after him.
18 For he would count himself fortunate with bare life,
And will congratulate you because things are going well with you,
19 Because you come up to the generation of his fathers,
While he will never more see light.
20 Man is an ox without understanding,
He is like the beasts that perish.

50

THE ESSENCE OF WORSHIP

[A PSALM OF ASAPH]

THE God of gods, the *Lord*, spoke,
And called the earth from the rising of the sun unto its setting.
2 From Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shone forth.

3 May our God come and not be silent!
Fire devours before him;
And round about him the storm rages terribly.
4 He called to the heavens above,
And to the earth, to judge his people.
5 "Gather to me my saints,
Who have made a covenant with me by sacrifice."
6 Then the heavens declared his righteousness,
That God was giving judgment. *Selah*

7 "Hear, O my people, and let me speak,
Hear, O Israel, and let me witness against you.
I am God, your God.
8 Not because of your sacrifices do I rebuke you,
For your burnt-offerings are constantly before me.
9 I will take no yearling from your house,
Nor ram from your folds.
10 For all the beasts of the forests are mine,
The cattle upon a thousand hills.
11 I know every bird of the mountains,
And whatsoever moves in the field is mine.
12 If I were hungry I would not tell you;
For mine is the world and everything therein.
13 Will I eat the flesh of oxen,
And drink the blood of goats?
14 Sacrifice to God a thank-offering,
And fulfil your vows to the Most High;
15 And call upon me in the time of trouble;
Then I will deliver you and you will honor me!"

16 But to the wicked God says:
"What right have you to recount my statutes,
And to take my covenant upon your lips?

17 For you hate instruction,
And you cast my words behind you!
18 If you see a thief, you are friendly with him;
And you make common cause with adulterers.
19 Your mouth you charge with evil,
And your tongue frames up deceit.
20 You sit down and speak against your brother,
Against the son of your mother you utter slander.
21 These things you have done—and am I to be silent?
You thought that I was just like yourself!
I will correct you and set it forth in your sight.
22 Consider this then, O you who forget God;
Lest I rend and there be no one to the rescue:
23 He who offers thanksgiving honors me;
And him who heeds the way, I will show God's deliverance."

51

THE PLEA OF A PENITENT

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: A PSALM OF DAVID, WHEN NATHAN, THE PROPHET, CAME TO HIM, AFTER HE HAD VISITED BATHSHEBA]

HAVE pity on me, O God, in accordance with thy grace;
In thy abundant mercy, wipe out my transgressions.
2 Wash me thoroughly from my guilt,
And cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I know my transgressions,
And my sin is ever before me.
4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned,
And done that which is evil in thy sight.

Inasmuch as thou art in the right when thou speakest,
And pure when thou givest judgment;
5 So in guilt was I begotten,
And in sin did my mother conceive me.

6 Verily thou dost delight in faithfulness,
The confidence of wisdom thou dost make me know.
7 Purge me with hyssop, that I may be clean;
Wash me, that I may be whiter than snow.
8 Let me hear joy and gladness;
Let the bones which thou hast crushed rejoice.
9 Hide thy face from my sins,
And wipe out all my guilt.

10 Create for me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.
11 Cast me not away from thy presence,
And take not thy holy spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of thy deliverance,
And sustain me with a willing spirit.
13 Let me teach transgressors thy ways,
That sinners may return unto thee.

14 Rescue me from blood-guiltiness, O God,
The God of my deliverance;
That my tongue may sing aloud thy righteousness.
15 O Lord, open thou my lips,
That my mouth may declare thy praise.
16 For thou desirest not sacrifice,
And should I give burnt-offering thou wouldst not be pleased.

17 The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;
A broken and a contrite heart,
O God, thou wilt not despise.

18 Do good in thy good will unto Zion;
Build thou the walls of Jerusalem.
19 Then wilt thou be pleased with right offerings,
Burnt-offering and whole burnt-offering;
Then will bullocks come up upon thy altar.

52

THE FATE OF THE WICKED

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: A *maskil* OF DAVID, WHEN DOEG, THE EDOMITE, CAME AND TOLD SAUL AND SAID TO HIM: "DAVID HAS ENTERED THE HOUSE OF ABIMELECH"]

WHY do you boast of evil, O mighty man?
The grace of God is all day long.

2 Your tongue contrives guile,
Like a sharp razor it works deceit.
3 You love bad better than good,
You would rather lie than tell the truth. *Selah*

4 You love all destructive words, the deceitful tongue.
5 But God will crush you forever;
He will seize you and pluck you out of your tent,
And uproot you from the land of the living. *Selah*

6 The righteous will behold and be reverent;
But at him they will laugh, saying,
7 "See the man who would not make God his stronghold,
But trusted in the abundance of his riches, and was strong in his guile."

8 But I am like a green olive-tree in God's house.
I trust in the grace of God forever and ever.
9 I will praise thee forever because thou hast done it;
And in the presence of thy saints I will proclaim that thy name is good.

53

THE VINDICATION OF GOD

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: UPON *MAHALATH;*
A *maskil* OF DAVID]

THE fool said in his heart: "There is no God."
They acted basely; they did abominable things.
There was none that did good.
2 God looked forth from the heavens upon the children of men,
To see if there were any that acted wisely,
That sought after God.
3 They had all gone astray and they had also done wrong.
There was none that did good,
No, not even one!

4 "Do they know nothing, all the evildoers,
Who eat up my people as they eat bread,
But do not call upon God?"
5 There were they in great terror,
Where no terror had been.
For God scattered the bones of him who besieged you.
You brought them to shame, for God rejected them.
6 Oh, that the deliverance of Israel would come from Zion!
When God turns the captivity of his people,
Jacob shall exult; Israel shall rejoice.

54

THE TRIUMPH OF THE PIOUS

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: ON THE *neginoth*. A *maskil* OF DAVID, WHEN THE ZIPHITES CAME AND SAID TO SAUL, "SURELY, DAVID IS IN HIDING WITH US"]

O God, deliver me by thy name,
And by thy power do me justice.
2 O God, hear my prayer;
Give heed to the words of my mouth!
3 For aliens have risen against me,
And men of violence seek my life.
They do not keep God before them. *Selah*

4 Behold, God is my helper;
The Lord is my supporter.
5 He will requite the evil to my foes;
In thy faithfulness, destroy them!
6 With enthusiasm I will sacrifice to thee.
I will praise thy name, O *Lord*, that it is good.
7 For he has delivered me from every trouble;
My eye has gloated over my foes.

55

A PROTEST TO GOD AGAINST THE WICKED

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: ON *neginoth;* A *maskil* OF DAVID]

HEAR my prayer, O God;
And do not hide thyself from my entreaty.
2 Give heed to me, and answer me!
I am burdened with my complaint, and I am distracted,

3 Because of the voice of the foe,
Because of the cry of the wicked.
For they bring trouble upon me,
And they attack me with fury.
4 My heart is in anguish within me,
And the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
5 Fear and trembling come upon me,
And shudders overwhelm me.
6 And I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove,
That I might fly away and dwell in peace!"
7 Lo, I would flee far away;
I would lodge in the wilderness. *Selah*
8 I would haste to my shelter,
Faster than the stormy wind and the tempest.

9 Confuse, O Lord, and divide their tongues!
For I have seen violence and strife in the town;
10 Day and night they encircle her upon her walls,
And trouble and toil are within her;
11 Ruin is within her.
Oppression and fraud do not depart from her market-place.
12 For it is not an enemy who reviles me—so I could bear it;
Nor does he who hates me magnify himself against me—
So I could hide myself from him;
13 But you, my equal, my intimate friend.
14 We held sweet converse together;
We entered the house of God in the procession.
15 Destruction will come upon them!
They will go down alive to Sheol!
For wickedness is in their habitation, within them.

16 But I shall call upon God,
And the *Lord* will deliver me.
17 Evening, morning, and at noon
I will sigh and moan; and he will hear my voice.
18 He will rescue me in peace from the fight against me;
Though many there be against me:
19 Ishmael and Jaleam and all the dwellers of the East,
To whom oaths are nothing;
Nor do they fear God.
20 He put forth his hand with his allies,
But violated his treaty!
21 His mouth was smoother than butter,
While war was in his heart;
Softer than oil were his words,
But they were drawn swords.

22 Cast your burden upon the *Lord*,
And he will sustain you.
He will never let the righteous totter.
23 But thou, O God, wilt bring them down into the pit of destruction;
Men of blood and fraud will not live out half their days.
So I will trust in thee.

56

THE ALL-SUFFICIENT GOD

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: ACCORDING TO THE DOVE OF DISTANT TEREBINTHS; A *miktam* OF DAVID, WHEN THE PHILISTINES SEIZED HIM IN GATH]

PITY me, O God, for man tramples upon me;
All day long the adversary oppresses me;
2 My foes are trampling upon me all day long.
For many there be fighting against me.

3 Far away is the day when I fear,
For I trust in thee.
4 In God—I praise his word—
In God do I trust without fear.
What can flesh do unto me?

5 All day long they trouble my affairs;
All their purposes are against me for evil.
6 They make attacks, they lie in wait, they watch my steps,
Inasmuch as they wait for my life.
7 For their crimes recompense them;
In wrath cast down the peoples, O God!
8 My misery thou hast reckoned;
Put thou my tears in thy bottle!
Are they not in thy book?
9 Then my enemies will be turned backward,
In the day when I call.
This I know, that God is for me.
10 In God—I praise his word—
In the *Lord*—I praise his word—
11 In God I trust without fear.
What can man do unto me?

12 Upon me, O God, are thy vows;
I will fulfil them with praises to thee.
13 For thou hast rescued me from death;
Hast thou not saved my feet from stumbling,
So that I walk before God in the light of life?

57

TRUST IN THE MIDST OF TROUBLES

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: "DESTROY NOT." A *miktam* OF DAVID, WHEN HE FLED FROM SAUL INTO THE CAVE]

HAVE pity on me, O God; have pity on me;
For in thee I am taking refuge;
And in the shadow of thy wings I take refuge,
Until ruin pass over.
2 I shall cry unto God, Most High,
To the God who rewards me.
3 He will send forth from the heavens and deliver me.
He will bring to shame him who tramples upon me. *Selah*
God will send forth his grace and his faithfulness.
4 In the midst of lions that devour I must dwell,
Men whose teeth are a spear and arrows,
And their tongue a sharp sword.
5 Exalt thyself above the heavens, O God;
Let thy glory be over all the earth.

6 They have spread a net for my footsteps;
I am bowed down;
They dug a pit before me;
They fell into the midst of it. *Selah*
7 My heart is steadfast, O God,
My heart is steadfast.
I will sing and play.
8 Awake, my glory!
Awake, lute and lyre!
I will awaken the dawn!

9 I will praise thee among the peoples, O Lord;
I will play to thee among the nations.
10 For thy grace is great unto the heavens,
And thy faithfulness unto the clouds.
11 Arise above the heavens, O God!
Let thy glory be over all the earth!

58

THE WICKED AND THEIR DESTRUCTION

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: "DO NOT DESTROY."
A *miktam* OF DAVID]

DO YOU really speak what is right, O gods?
Do you judge mankind impartially?
2 Nay, but in the heart you work wickedness,
And on earth your hands weave violence.
3 The wicked go astray from the womb;
They wander from birth, speakers of lies.
4 Their venom is like a serpent's venom,
Like a deaf adder that stops its ear,
5 So that it hears not the voice of the charmer,
The most skilful weaver of spells.

6 O God, break their teeth in their mouth!
Knock out the fangs of the lions, O *Lord!*
7 May they disappear like water which runs off,
Like tender grass which wilts away,
8 Like the snail which passes away in slime;
Like the untimely birth of a woman, not seen by the sun.
9 Before your pots feel the thorns,
Whether green or burning, may he blow it away.

10 The righteous will rejoice that he has seen vengeance;
He will wash his footsteps in the blood of the wicked.
11 And men will say, "There certainly is a reward for the
righteous;
There certainly is a God who judges on earth."

59

A PRAYER FOR RESCUE FROM THE WICKED

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: "DO NOT DESTROY." A *miktam* OF DAVID, WHEN SAUL SENT FORTH AND THEY WATCHED THE HOUSE TO PUT HIM TO DEATH]

RESCUE me from my enemies, O my God!
Protect me from those who rise up together
against me.
2 Rescue me from malefactors,
And from bloodthirsty men deliver me.

3 For lo, they lie in wait for me,
Mighty men are making attack upon me,
Without transgression or sin of mine, O *Lord;*
4 For no guilt of mine, they run and get themselves ready.

Arise to meet me, and see!
5 Do thou, O *Lord*, God of Hosts, God of Israel,
Awake, to visit all the nations!
Have no pity upon any of the wicked deceivers. *Selah*

6 They keep howling like dogs in the evening;
And they encircle the city.
7 Behold, they bark with their mouths;
Swords are in their lips;
But who hears them?

8 For thou, O *Lord*, dost laugh at them,
Thou dost hold all the nations in scorn.
9 My Strength, for thee do I watch;
For God is my fortress.

10 My God will let his grace go before me.
God will let me gloat over my foes.
11 Slay them not, lest my people forget.
Shake them by thy power, and bring them down,
O Lord, our shield.

12 By the sin of their mouth, the word of their lips,
May they be caught in their pride.
And for the curses and lies which they utter,
13 Destroy them in wrath, destroy them that they be no more,
That they may know that God is ruling in Jacob,
Unto the ends of the earth. *Selah*

14 They keep howling like dogs in the evening,
And they encircle the city.
15 They wander about to devour;
If they are not satisfied, they grumble.

16 But I will sing of thy strength;
I will extol thy grace in the morning.
For thou hast been a fortress for me,
And a refuge in the day of my danger.
17 My Strength, I will sing praises unto thee;
For God is my fortress, my gracious God.

60

A PRAYER FOR DELIVERANCE

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: UPON *shushan eduth;* A *miktam* OF DAVID, TO TEACH; WHEN HE STROVE WITH ARAM OF THE TWO RIVERS AND ARAM-ZOBAH, AND JOAB RETURNED AND SMOTE OF EDOM IN THE VALLEY OF SALT TWELVE THOUSAND]

O GOD, thou hast spurned us, thou hast broken us;
Thou hast been angry, and hast turned against us.
2 Thou hast made the earth quake, thou hast rent it.
Heal its wounds; for it staggers.
3 Thou hast made thy people see hardship;
Thou hast made us drink intoxicating wine.

4 Thou hast given a standard to those who fear thee,
To which they may flee from before the bow, *Selah*
5 That thy loved ones may be rescued;
Give victory by thy right hand and answer us.

6 God has spoken in his sanctuary:
"I will exult; I will divide Shechem,
And measure off the valley of Succoth.
7 Gilead is mine, and Manasseh is mine,
And Ephraim is the defense of my head;
Judah is my scepter.
8 Moab is my washbowl;
Upon Edom I cast my sandal;
Over Philistia I raise the shout of victory.
9 Who will bring me to the fortified city?
Who will lead me to Edom?"

10 Hast not thou, O God, rejected us?
And thou goest not forth, O God, with our armies.
11 Give us aid against the foe,
For futile is the help of man.
12 Through God we shall do valiantly,
For he will tread down our foes.

61

A PRAYER OF ASSURANCE

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: TO STRING-MUSIC.
OF DAVID]

HEAR my cry, O God!
Give ear to my prayer!
2 From the end of the earth I cry unto thee,
When my heart faints.
Upon a rock that is too high for me thou wilt set me.
3 For thou hast been my refuge,
A tower of strength against the foe.
4 Let me dwell in thy tent forever;
Let me find refuge in the covert of thy wings.

5 For thou, O God, hast heard my vows;
Thou hast granted the wish of those who fear thy name.
6 Thou wilt add days unto the king's days;
His years will be as generation on generation.
7 He will dwell forever before God.
Charge grace and fidelity that they protect him.
8 So will I sing praises to thy name forever,
Fulfilling my vows day by day.

62

AN UNSHAKEN FAITH

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: UPON *Jeduthun;*
A PSALM OF DAVID]

TO GOD alone would I silently submit myself;
From him is my deliverance.
2 He only is my rock and my deliverance,
My fortress; I shall not be roughly shaken.
3 For how long will you set upon a man
That you may murder him, all of you,
Like a leaning fence, like a fallen wall?
4 From his height they plan but to hurl him down;
They delight in lies; with their mouths they bless,
But in their hearts they curse. *Selah*

5 To God alone would I silently submit myself;
For from him is my hope.
6 He alone is my rock and my deliverance,
My fortress; I shall not be shaken.
7 Upon God rests my salvation and my glory;
My mighty rock, my refuge is in God.
8 Trust in him at all times, O people;
Pour out your heart before him.
God is our refuge. *Selah*

9 A mere illusion are the sons of Adam,
The sons of men are a fraud;
If put in the scales they are lighter than a mere breath.
10 Trust not in oppression, and put no vain hope in robbery.
If wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

11 One thing has God said;
Two things are those that I have heard:
That power belongs to God;
12 And grace, O Lord, is thine;
For thou dost requite a man according to his work.

63

FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

[A PSALM OF DAVID, WHEN HE WAS IN THE WILDERNESS OF JUDAH]

O GOD, thou art my God; I seek for thee;
My spirit thirsts for thee; my flesh yearns for thee,
As in a dry and parched land where no water is;
2 So have I beheld thee in the sanctuary,
While seeing thy power and thy glory.
3 Because thy grace is better than life,
My lips do praise thee.
4 So shall I bless thee as long as I live;
In thy name I shall raise my hands.
5 As with marrow and fatness my desire is satisfied,
And my mouth praises thee with jubilant lips,
6 When I remember thee upon my couch,
And meditate on thee in the night-watches.
7 For thou hast been my help;
And in the shadow of thy wings I shout for joy.
8 I have clung close to thee,
Thy right hand has sustained me.
9 And they who seek my life to destroy it,
Shall go into the lowest depths of the earth,

10 They shall be given over to the edge of the sword,
They shall become the portion of jackals.
11 But the king shall rejoice in God;
Everyone who swears by him shall sing praises;
For the mouth of liars shall be closed.

64

THE WAYS OF THE WICKED AND THE WAY OF GOD

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: A PSALM OF DAVID]

HEAR my voice, O God, when I complain;
From terror of the foe, protect my life.
2 Hide me from the council of evildoers,
From the commotion of wrongdoers,
3 Who whet their tongue like a sword;
They fit their arrow, a bitter word,
4 To shoot, in concealment, at the innocent.
Suddenly, they shoot him and are not afraid.
5 They strengthen for themselves a wicked scheme;
They talk of laying snares secretly;
They say, "Who will see them?"
6 They search out wicked plans;
They conceal a well-devised device;
For the inner man and the heart are deep.

7 Then God shoots them with his arrow;
Suddenly their wounds are there;
8 And they cause their tongue to stumble for them.
All who look at them wag the head;
9 And all men fear,
And tell of the deed of God,
And understand his work.

10 The righteous rejoices in the *Lord* and takes refuge in him;
And all the upright in heart sing praises.

65

THE GOD OF THE UNIVERSE

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: A PSALM OF DAVID; A SONG]

PRAISE befits thee, O God, in Zion;
And unto thee is the vow fulfilled.
2 O thou that hearest prayer,
Unto thee do all flesh come.
3 If deeds of guilt are too strong for me,
Thou dost wipe out our transgressions.

4 How happy is he whom thou dost choose and permit
to dwell in thy courts.
We are satisfied with the goodness of thy house,
thy holy temple.
5 Through terrible deeds thou dost answer us in vindication,
O God of our deliverance;
Thou confidence of all the ends of the earth,
and the faraway islands.
6 He who prepared the mountains by his strength
is girded with power.

7 O thou who dost assuage the roar of the seas,
The roar of their waves and the uproar of peoples,
8 Those who dwell in the far regions are afraid of thy tokens;

Thou makest the dawn and the sunset to shout with joy.
9 Thou visitest the land and makest it overflow;
Thou greatly enrichest it.
Through the brook of God, which is full of water,
Thou preparest their grain; for thus dost thou prepare it:
10 Thou dost abundantly water its furrows; thou dost make its buds swell;
With showers thou dost soften it;
Its young growth thou dost bless.
11 Thou crownest the year with thy goodness,
And thy paths drip fatness.
12 The meadows of the steppe drip,
And the hills gird themselves with joy.
13 The pastures are clothed with flocks;
And the valleys are covered with grain;
They shout for joy; indeed, they sing!

66

A HYMN OF GRATITUDE

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: A SONG, A PSALM]

MAKE a joyous shout to God, all the earth;
2 Praise the glory of his name;
Make his praise glorious!
3 Say to God: "How awful is thy work!
Because of thy great power thy foes fawn upon thee!
4 All the earth worships thee,
And sings praises to thee, singing the praises of thy name." *Selah*

5 Come and see the works of God,
Awful in deeds against mankind.
6 He changed the sea into dry land,
So they passed through the river on foot.
There we rejoiced in him.
7 He rules by his power forever;
His eyes watch over the nations.
Let not the adversaries exalt themselves.

8 Bless our God, O peoples;
And sound abroad the praise of him
9 Who has kept us among the living,
And has not suffered our feet to stumble.
10 For thou hast tested us, O God;
Thou hast refined us as silver is refined.

11 Thou didst bring us into the net;
Thou didst lay a heavy load upon our loins.
12 Thou didst let men ride over our heads;
We went through fire and water;
But thou hast brought us forth to a spacious place.

13 I will enter thy house with offerings,
I will fulfil to thee the vows
14 Which my lips have expressed,
And my mouth has spoken when I was in trouble.
15 Burnt-offerings of fatlings I will offer to thee,
Together with the savory smoke of rams.
I will prepare an ox and he-goats. *Selah*

16 Come, listen, all you who revere God,
While I tell what he has done for me.

17 Unto him did I cry with my mouth,
And I was raised from under my foes.
18 Had I cherished deceit in my heart,
The Lord would not have heard.
19 But God did hear:
He gave heed to my prayerful voice.

20 Blessed be God,
Who did not reject my prayer,
Nor turn away his grace from me.

67

A PRAYER FOR GOD'S BLESSING

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: WITH STRING MUSIC; A PSALM, A SONG]

MAY God be merciful unto us and bless us,
And cause his face to shine upon us! *Selah*
2 That thy way may be known in the earth,
Thy salvation among all nations,
3 Let the peoples praise thee, O God,
Let all the peoples praise thee.

4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
Because thou judgest the peoples justly,
And leadest the nations in the earth.
5 Let the peoples praise thee, O God;
Let all the peoples praise thee!

6 Earth has yielded her increase.
May God, our own God, bless us!
7 May God bless us;
And may all the ends of the earth fear him!

68

THE MIGHT AND GLORY OF GOD

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: OF DAVID;
A PSALM, A SONG]

MAY God arise! May his foes be scattered!
And may those that hate him flee before him!
2 As smoke is driven away by the wind,
As wax melts before the fire,
So do the wicked perish from before God.
3 But the righteous rejoice;
They exult before God;
And they are jubilant with joy.

4 Sing unto God; praise his name!
Extol him who rides upon the storm-clouds,
Whose name is Yah, and exult before him!
5 A father to the fatherless and the judge of widows
Is God in his holy dwelling.
6 God brings home the desolate;
He leads prisoners forth into prosperity.
Only the rebellious dwell in a parched land.

7 O God, when thou didst go forth before thy people,
When thou didst march through the desert,
8 The earth quaked, the heavens also poured down at the presence of God;
Even yon Sinai, at the presence of God, Israel's God.
9 A copious rain didst thou pour down, O God;
Thy exhausted and wornout land thou didst re-establish.
10 Thy flock dwelt therein.
Thou didst prepare it in thy goodness for the poor, O God.

11 The Lord gave the command:
The messengers were a great host.
12 Kings of hosts fled, they fled!
The women divided the spoil:
13 (Did you lie among the sheepfolds?)
The wings of a dove covered with silver,
And its pinions with glittering gold.
14 When the Almighty scattered the kings therein,
It was snowing in Zalmon.

15 O mighty mountain, O Mount Bashan;
O many-peaked mountain, O Mount Bashan;
16 Why, O many-peaked mountains, do you envy
The mountain that God has desired for his abode?
Yet the *Lord* will dwell there forever.
17 The chariots of God are myriads, thousands upon thousands.
The Lord came from Sinai into the sanctuary.

18 Thou hast ascended on high; thou hast carried away captives;
Thou hast taken tribute of men,
And, indeed, rebels, that the *Lord* God may dwell there.
19 Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears our burden; *Selah*
The God who is our salvation;
20 The God who is our saving God;
And unto *God*, the Lord, belong the exits to death.

21 God will surely crush the head of his foes,
The skull of Seir who goes on in his guilt.
22 The Lord said, "I will bring them back from Bashan,
I will bring them back from the depths of the sea;
23 That your foot may bathe in blood,
And the tongue of your dogs have its share of your foes."

24 Thy processions are seen, O God,
The processions of my God, my King, in the sanctuary.
25 Singers lead; at the rear, the stringed instruments;
In the middle, maidens playing timbrels.
26 In choirs, they bless God,
The Lord, those from Israel's fountain.
27 There is Benjamin, the youngest, ruling them;
The princes of Judah in a throng,
The princes of Zebulon, and the princes of Naphtali.

28 Command thy strength, O God;
Be strong, O God, thou who hast wrought for us.
29 From thy temple, for Jerusalem,
When kings bring gifts to thee,
30 Threaten the beasts bearing cane,
The herd of bulls, with calves of the peoples,
Because they cling to idols of silver;
Scatter the peoples that delight in wars.

31 Let messengers come from Egypt;
Let Ethiopia eagerly stretch forth her hands to God.
32 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth.
Make music to the Lord, *Selah*
33 To him who rides upon the most ancient heavens.
Lo, he utters his voice, a mighty voice!
34 Ascribe power unto God!
Over Israel is his majesty,
And his power is in the clouds.

35 Terrible art thou, O God, from thy sanctuary.
Unto Israel he gives power,
And strength to the people that is blessed of God.

69

AN IMPRECATORY PSALM

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: UPON LILIES; OF DAVID]

SAVE me, O God,
For the water mounts to my life.
2 I am sunk in deep mire,
where there is no foothold.
3 I have got into deep water,
and the flood overwhelms me.
4 I am worn out by my crying, my throat is parched.
My eyes fail with waiting for my God.

5 More numerous than the hairs of my head
are they that hate me without cause.
Many are they that would destroy me,
my enemies wrongfully.
What I did not steal, forsooth, I must restore!

6 O God, thou knowest my foolishness;
And my guilt is not hidden from thee!
7 May they who hope in thee not be put to shame through me,
O Lord, *God* of hosts.
May they who seek thee not be brought to disgrace through me,
O God of Israel.
8 For because of thee I bear reproach,
Dishonor covers my face.

9 I have become a stranger to my brothers,
An alien to my mother's sons.
10 For zeal for thy house has eaten me up;
And the abuse of them that abuse thee has fallen on me.

11 When I afflict myself by fasting,
It becomes my reproach.
12 If I assume sackcloth as my clothing,
I become a joke to them.
13 They who sit in the gate talk of me;
And I have become the song of the drunkards.

14 But my prayer unto thee, O *Lord*, is for an acceptable time;
O God, in thy plenteous grace,
Answer me with thy saving faithfulness.
15 Rescue me from the mire that I sink not;
Let me be delivered from my enemies and from the deep water;
16 Let not the flood of water overwhelm me;
Let not the depths swallow me up;
And let not the pit close its mouth upon me.

17 Answer me, O *Lord*, for thy grace is good;
In accordance with thy plenteous mercy turn to me!
18 And do not hide thy face from thy servant;
For I am in trouble; answer me quickly!
19 Fight for me and deliver me;
Because of my enemies, release me.

20 Thou knowest my abuse,
And my shame and disgrace;
All my foes are before thee.
21 Abuse breaks my heart and I am sick;
And I look for sympathy, but there is none;
And for comforters, but I find none.
22 And they put poison in my food,
And give me vinegar to drink for my thirst.

23 May their table become a snare before them,
And their peace-offerings a trap.
24 May their eyes be so darkened that they cannot see,
And make their loins tremble constantly.
25 Pour out upon them thy wrath,
And let thy hot anger overtake them.
26 May their encampment be a waste;
In their tents may there be no inhabitant.
27 For him whom thou hast smitten they persecute,
And unto the pain of thy victims they add.
28 Add guilt to their guilt,
And let them not enter into thy justification.
29 May they be blotted out from the book of life,
And not be inscribed among the righteous.

30 But as for me, though afflicted and in pain,
Thy salvation, O God, will set me on high.
31 I will praise the name of God in song,
And I will magnify him with thanksgiving;
32 And that will please the *Lord* more than an ox,
Or a bullock with horns and hoofs.

33 Behold, O you humble, and be glad!
O you who seek God, let your heart revive!
34 For the *Lord* listens to the needy,
And does not despise his prisoners.
35 The heavens and the earth will praise him,
The sea and all that stirs therein;
36 Because God delivers Zion,
And rebuilds the cities of Judah,
So that they dwell there and take possession;
37 And the descendants of his servants inherit it,
And those loving his name shall dwell therein.

70

A PRAYER FOR THE HELP OF GOD

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: OF DAVID; TO MAKE A MEMORIAL]

BE PLEASED, O God, to rescue me!
Hasten to my help, O *Lord!*
2 May they be put to shame and disgraced who seek my life!
May they be driven back and routed who wish me evil!

3 May they be appalled because of their shame,
Who say, "Aha! Aha!"
4 May they rejoice and be glad in thee,
all who seek thee!
And may they constantly say, "Great is God,"
who love thy deliverance.

5 But I am afflicted and needy;
O God, hasten to me!
Thou art my help and my deliverer;
O *Lord*, do not tarry!

71

A PRAYER FOR AID AGAINST THE FOE

IN THEE, O *Lord*, have I found refuge;
May I never be put to shame!
2 In thy righteousness, rescue me and deliver me!
Incline thy ear unto me and save me!

3 Become unto me a rock of refuge,
To which I may always resort.
Thou hast given command to save me;
For thou art my rock and my fortress.

4 O my God, deliver me from the hand of the wicked,
From the fist of the evildoer and the violent!
5 For thou hast been my hope, O Lord *God*,
my confidence from my youth:
6 Upon thee have I leaned from birth;
From my mother's womb thou hast been my stay.
In thee is my hope continually.
7 Like a portent have I been to many;
But thou art my strong refuge.
8 My mouth is filled with thy praise
And thy beauty all day long.

9 Do not cast me off in my old age;
When my strength fails, do not forsake me!
10 For my foes say concerning me,
And those who watch for my life make plans also,

11 Saying, "God has abandoned him.
Pursue and seize him; for there is no one to rescue him."
12 O God, be not far from me!
Hasten, O my God, to my help!

13 May they be put to shame and destroyed who are hostile to me;
May they be covered with abuse and disgrace who seek to injure me!
14 But I will hope continually,
And will add more to all thy praise.

15 My mouth will relate thy righteousness,
And thy deeds of deliverance all day long;
For were I skilled in writing,
16 And should I reach an advanced age, O Lord *God*,
I could record thy righteousness only.

17 O God, thou hast taught me from my youth until now;
I declare thy wonders.
18 Even up to old age and gray hairs do not forsake me, O God;
So that I may tell of thy mighty arm to the generations,
To all that are to come.

19 Thy power and thy righteousness
Extend, O God, unto the high heavens.
Thou who hast done great things,
O God, who is like thee?

20 O thou who hast made us see many dangers and disasters
Do thou quicken us again,
And from the depths of the earth bring us up again.
21 Do thou increase my greatness,
And turn and comfort me!

22 I also will praise thee with the lyre,
I will chant thy faithfulness, O my God, with the harp,
O thou holy one of Israel.

23 My lips shall joyfully shout when I make music unto thee,
And my life which thou hast redeemed.
24 My tongue, too, shall tell of thy righteousness all day long;
For they shall be put to shame, they shall be disgraced, who sought to do me harm.

72

LONG LIVE THE KING!

[OF SOLOMON]

GIVE the king thy justice, O God,
And thy righteousness to the king's son,
2 That he may judge thy people with right,
And thine afflicted with justice!

3 May the mountains bring the people peace,
And the hills righteousness!
4 May he judge the afflicted of the people,
And give deliverance to the poor,
And crush the oppressor!

5 May he live as long as the sun,
And as long as the moon, for one generation after another!
6 May he descend like rain upon the mown grass,
Like showers that water the earth.

7 May the righteous flourish in his days,
And may peace abound, till the moon be no more!
8 May he rule from sea to sea,
And from the river to the ends of the earth!

9 Before him may foes bend low,
And his enemies lick the dust!
10 May the kings of Tarshish and the isles
return tribute,
The kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts!
11 And may all kings do obeisance to him,
All nations serve him!

12 For he rescues the needy when he calls for help;
And the afflicted who has no helper.
13 He takes pity upon the poor and needy,
And saves the life of the poor.
14 From oppression and violence he ransoms them;
And precious is their blood in his eyes.

15 So, may he live and be given of the gold of Sheba;
And may men pray for him constantly;
All day long may they bless him!
16 May there be abundance of grain in the land;
On mountain tops may its fruit shake like Lebanon;
And may those from the cities blossom like the grass
of the earth!

17 May his name endure forever!
As long as the sun may his name abide!
May men bless themselves in him!
May all nations call him blessed!

18 Blessed be the *Lord* God, the God of Israel,
Who alone does great wonders!
And blessed be his glorious name forever!
And may the whole earth be filled with his glory!
Amen and amen!

The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended.

BOOK III

PSS. 73–89

73

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

[A PSALM OF ASAPH]

SURELY, God is good to Israel,
To those who are pure in heart.
2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone,
My steps had well-nigh slipped.
3 For I was incensed at fools,
As I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

4 For they have no pangs;
Sound and healthy is their body.
5 In trouble, like other men, they are not;
Nor are they plagued like others.
6 Hence pride is their necklace;
A robe of violence covers them.

7 Their eye goes forth beyond the best,
They transcend the imaginations of the heart.
8 They mock and speak in wickedness;
Oppression from on high they speak.
9 They have set their mouth in the heavens,
And their tongue ranges the earth.

10 Therefore they are satisfied with their own folly,
And suck themselves full of water of deceit.
11 And they say, "How can God know?
And is their knowledge in the Most High?"
12 Lo, such are the wicked!
And in perpetual ease they amass wealth.

13 All to no purpose have I kept my heart pure,
And washed my hands in innocence.
14 For I have been smitten all day long,
And chastened every morning.

15 If I had said, "I will speak thus";
I should have, indeed, betrayed the generation of thy children.
16 But when I thought in order to understand this,
It was in my sight a troublesome task,
17 Until I came into the sanctuary of God;
Then I perceived their future lot.

18 Surely thou settest them in slippery places;
Thou dost hurl them down to ruin.
19 How they become a desolation as in a moment,
Are swept away, are destroyed through horrors!
20 As a dream is scattered when one awakes,
So, when thou dost bestir thyself, thou wilt set at nought their fancies.

21 When my heart was stirred up,
And my feelings were aroused,
22 Then I was stupid and knew nothing;
A brute was I toward thee!

23 Yet I am always with thee;
Thou holdest my right hand.
24 By thy counsel thou leadest me;
And by the hand thou dost take me after thee.

25 Whom have I in the heavens but thee?
And having thee, I wish nought else on earth.
26 My flesh and my heart fail;
But my heart's rock and my portion is God forever.

27 For lo, those far from thee will perish.
Thou destroyest all that are unfaithful to thee.
28 But as for me, the nearness of God is my good;
I put my reliance upon the Lord *God;*
That I may recount all thy wonders.

74

AN APPEAL TO GOD AGAINST VANDALS

[A *maskil* OF ASAPH]

WHEREFORE, O God, hast thou cast us off forever?
Wherefore does thy anger smoke against the flock of thy pasture?
2 Remember thy community which thou didst obtain of old,
Which thou didst redeem as the tribe of thy inheritance,
Mount Zion wherein thou hast dwelt.

3 Lift up thy footsteps unto the perpetual ruins.
The enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary.
4 Thy foes roar in the midst of thy assembly.
They set up their own signs as signs.

5 Let it be known; in the passage upward,
The wooden trellis work with axes,
6 And now its carvings also,
With hatchet and adzes they smash.

7 They have set thy sanctuary on fire;
They have defiled to the ground the dwelling-place of thy name.

8 They said in their heart, "We will Hellenize them also."
They burned all the assemblies of God in the land.

9 Our signs we did not see.
There was no longer a prophet.
There was nobody among us that knew how long.
10 How long, O God, shall the foe blaspheme?
Shall the enemy revile thy name forever?
11 Wherefore dost thou withdraw thy hand,
And restrain thy right hand within thy bosom?

12 God is my king from of old,
Who wrought victory in the midst of the earth.
13 Through thy power thou didst divide the sea;
Thou didst crush the heads of the dragons upon the waters.

14 Thou didst shatter the heads of Leviathan;
Thou didst give him as food to the beasts of the desert.
15 Thou didst cleave out fountain and brook;
Thou didst dry up unfailing rivers.

16 Day and night are both thine.
Thou didst establish sun and moon.
17 Thou didst fix all the bounds of the earth.
Thou didst make both summer and winter.

18 Recall this: the enemy blasphemed the *Lord*,
And a reprobate people reviled thy name.
19 Do not give to the wild beasts the life of thy turtle-dove.
Do not forget the life of thy afflicted one forever.

20 Have regard to the covenant;
For the dark places of the land are full of the habitations of violence.
21 Let not the crushed be again put to shame.
May the poor and the needy praise thy name!

22 Arise, O God; plead thine own cause;
Remember thy reproach from the reprobate all the day long.
23 Do not forget the voice of thy foes,
The uproar of thy adversaries which continually ascends.

75

GOD AS JUDGE

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: DESTROY NOT.
A PSALM OF ASAPH, A SONG]

WE GIVE thanks to thee, O God; we give thanks.
And they who call upon thy name recount thy wonders.

2 "When I take the appointed time,
I shall judge with equity.
3 The earth with all its inhabitants will melt away.
It was I who established its pillars. *Selah*

4 "I say to the boasters, 'Do not boast';
And to the wicked, 'Do not lift up the horn;
5 Do not lift up your horn on high,
Nor speak with an insolent neck.' "

6 For not from the East, nor from the West,
Nor yet from the steppe nor from the mountains—
7 But God is the judge!
He humbles one and exalts another.

8 For the cup is in the hand of the *Lord*,
With foaming wine, thoroughly mixed;
And he pours out to one and another.
Surely all the wicked of the earth
Must drink and drain its dregs.

9 But I will forever rejoice,
And sing the praise of the God of Jacob.
10 For all the horns of the wicked he will break off,
That the horns of the righteous may be exalted.

76

THE TERRIBLE ONE

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: WITH STRING-MUSIC.
A PSALM OF ASAPH, A SONG]

IN JUDAH is God known,
His name is great in Israel.
2 And his tent is in Salem,
His dwelling in Zion.
3 There did he break the fiery shafts of the bow,
Shield, and sword, and battle. *Selah*

4 Terrible art thou, mightier than a devouring lion;
5 Devastated are the stout-hearted,
They sleep their sleep.
And none of the men of war have found their hands.
6 At thy rebuke, O God of Jacob,
Chariots and horsemen are sunk in deep sleep.

7 Thou thyself art terrible;
And who can stand before thee, because of the intensity
of thy anger?

8 From the heavens thou didst pronounce sentence;
Earth feared and was still,
9 When God arose to judgment,
To save all the humble of the earth. *Selah*

10 Surely, the most violent of men will give thanks to thee,
The most persistently violent will put on sackcloth.
11 Make vows and pay them to the *Lord*, your God.
Let all who are around him bring gifts to him that is terrible.
12 He cuts off the breath of princes;
He is terrible to the kings of the earth.

77
THE MIGHTY GOD

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: UPON *Jeduthun*.
A PSALM OF ASAPH]

I WILL raise my voice to God and cry aloud;
I will raise my voice to God, that he may hear me.
2 In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord.
My hand was stretched out by night without ceasing,
My mind refused consolation.
3 When I recall this, O God, I groan;
When I ponder upon it, my spirit faints. *Selah*

4 Thou holdest the lids of my eyes;
I am restless and cannot speak.
5 I have thought upon the days of old,
The years of ancient times.
6 By night I recall my song,
I commune with my heart and search my spirit:

7 "Will the Lord cast us off forever,
And never again be gracious?

8 Is his grace at an end forever?
Has his word ceased for all generations?
9 Has God forgotten how to be gracious?
Or has he shut up his mercy in anger?" *Selah*

10 Then I say, "This is my disaster:
That the right hand of the Most High has changed."
11 I will recall the words of Yah;
I will remember thy wonders of old;
12 And I will ponder upon all thy work,
And meditate upon thy doings.

13 O God, thy way is in holiness.
What deity is as great as God?
14 Thou art the God that does wonders.
Thou hast made thy strength known among the peoples.
15 Thou didst by thy power redeem thy people,
The sons of Jacob and Joseph.

16 The waters saw thee, O God;
The waters saw thee; they suffered pangs;
The very deeps were convulsed.
17 The clouds poured down water;
The skies gave forth their voice;
Thy arrows flashed hither and thither.

18 The sound of thy thunder was in the cyclone;
Lightning lit up the world.
The land trembled and quaked.
19 Thy way was in the sea,
And thy path on the great waters;
But thy footsteps were not traced.
20 Thou didst lead thy people like a flock,
By the hand of Moses and Aaron.

78

A RELIGIOUS BALLAD

[A *maskil* OF ASAPH]

HEARKEN, my people, to my teaching;
Bend your ear to the words of my mouth!
2 I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter riddles from of old,
3 What we have heard and known,
And our fathers told us.
4 We will not conceal it from their children,
Telling to the coming generation the praises of the *Lord*,
And his might and his wonders which he wrought,
5 When he established a decree in Jacob,
And gave Israel a law,
Which he commanded our fathers
To teach unto their children,
6 That the coming generation should know,
That children yet unborn should arise,
And tell to their children,
7 That they should set their trust in God,
And not forget the works of God;
But keep his commandments,
8 And not be like their fathers,
A stubborn and rebellious generation,
A generation that did not set its heart aright;
Nor was its spirit loyal to God.

9 The Ephraimites—archers, equipped with the bow—
Turned back in the day of battle.
10 They did not keep the covenant of God,
And refused to walk in accordance with his law;

11 But forgot his works,
And his wonders which he had showed them.
12 Before their fathers he did wonders
In the land of Egypt, on the fields of Zoan.
13 He cleft the sea and led them through,
And made the waters stand like a wall.
14 And he led them with a cloud by day,
And all night through by the light of a fire.
15 He split rocks in the desert,
And gave them drink abundantly as from the great depths.
16 And he brought forth streams from the rock,
And made water run down like rivers.

17 But they sinned still more against him,
Rebelling in the desert against the Most High.
18 Then they tried God in their hearts,
By demanding food according to their desire.
19 And they spoke against God and said,
"Can God spread a table in the desert?
20 He did, indeed, smite the rock, so that the water flowed,
And streams poured forth;
Can he also give bread,
Or provide meat for his people?"
21 Therefore the *Lord* heard and became angry,
And fire blazed forth against Jacob,
And wrath mounted against Israel;
22 Because they did not believe in God,
And put no confidence in his deliverance.

23 So he commanded the skies from above,
And opened the doors of the heavens;

24 And he rained manna upon them for food,
And gave them of the grain of the heavens.
25 The bread of the mighty did a man eat;
Provisions he furnished them in abundance,
26 He let loose the east wind in the heavens;
And in his might he guided the south wind;
27 And he rained flesh upon them like dust,
And winged birds like the sand of the seas.
28 And he let them fall in the midst of their camp,
Round about their dwellings.
29 So they did eat and were completely satisfied;
He brought them their desire.
30 They were not yet tired of their craving,
Their food was yet in their mouths,
31 When the anger of God mounted against them,
And he slew the stoutest among them,
And laid low the choicest in Israel.

32 Notwithstanding all this, they sinned still more,
And believed not in his wondrous works,
33 So he brought their days to an end in a breath,
And their years in sudden ruin.
34 When he smote them, then they sought him,
And again they inquired of God.
35 And they remembered that God was their rock,
And that the most high God was their avenger.
36 So they beguiled him with their mouth,
And lied to him with their tongue;
37 But their heart was not steadfast with him,
Nor were they loyal to his covenant.
38 But he is merciful.
He pardons guilt and does not destroy.

And frequently he restrains his anger,
And does not arouse all his rage.

39 So he remembered that they were flesh,
A breath that passes and does not come back.
40 How often did they oppose him in the wilderness,
And grieve him in the desert!
41 They tried God again and again,
And vexed the holy one of Israel.
42 They did not remember his power:
The day that he delivered them from the foe;
43 How he set his wonders in Egypt,
And his portents in the fields of Zoan;
44 And turned their rivers to blood,
So that they could not drink of their streams!
45 How he sent forth among them swarms of insects and devoured them,
And frogs, which destroyed them.
46 And how he gave their increase to the caterpillar,
And the fruit of their labor to the locust;
47 How he destroyed their vines with hailstones,
And their sycamore trees with frost;
48 And he gave their cattle over to the plague,
And their flocks to the pestilence.

49 He sent upon them his hot anger,
Wrath and fury and trouble,
An embassy of messengers of woe.
50 He made a smooth path for his anger,
He did not restrain them from death,
But handed over their life to the plague.
51 He smote all the first-born in Egypt,
The first-fruits of virile strength in the tents of Ham;

52 And he sent forth his people like a flock,
Guided them like a herd in the wilderness,
53 And led them safely so that they were not afraid;
But their foes the sea did overwhelm.
54 So he brought them to his holy region,
To this mountain which his right hand had won.
55 And he drove out the nations from before them,
And distributed them as a possession,
And gave the tribes of Israel dwellings in their tents.

56 But they tried and vexed God, the Most High,
And did not keep his injunctions.
57 And they turned back and were faithless like their fathers;
They turned around like a treacherous bow.
58 They provoked him with their sanctuaries;
And with their idols, they aroused his hot wrath.
59 God heard and became furious,
And utterly rejected Israel,
60 And spurned the sanctuary at Shiloh,
The tent which he had occupied among men.
61 He surrendered his strength to captivity,
And his splendor into the hand of the foe.
62 He delivered his people to the sword,
And raged against his heritage.
63 Fire devoured his youths,
And his maidens had no wedding songs.
64 His priests fell by the sword,
And his widows could not weep.

65 Then the Lord awoke like one asleep,
Like a strong man overcome of wine.

66 And he smote his foes backward,
And inflicted upon them a perpetual disgrace.
67 He rejected the house of Joseph,
And chose not the tribe of Ephraim.
68 But he chose the tribe of Judah,
Mount Zion, which he loved.
69 He built his sanctuary like the heights,
Like the earth which he has founded forever.
70 He chose David, his servant,
And took him from the sheepfolds.
71 From behind the ewes he brought him,
To be the shepherd of Jacob, his people,
And Israel, his heritage.
72 He tended them in accordance with the integrity of his heart,
And by the skill of his hands he led them.

79

A PRAYER FOR VENGEANCE

[A PSALM OF ASAPH]

O God, the nations have come into thy inheritance;
They have defiled thy holy temple;
They have laid Jerusalem in ruins.
2 They have given the corpses of thy servants
As food to the fowl of the heavens;
The flesh of thy saints to the beasts of the land.
3 They have poured out their blood like water
Round about Jerusalem, and there is none to bury them.

4 We are become a taunt for our neighbors,
Derision and mockery for those around us.

5 How long, O *Lord?* Wilt thou be angry forever?
Will thy jealousy burn like fire?
6 Pour out thy wrath upon the nations who do not acknowledge thee,
And upon the kingdoms that do not invoke thy name;
7 For they have devoured Jacob,
And have laid waste his habitation.
8 Do not remember against us our early sins;
May thy mercies quickly meet us,
For we are brought very low.
9 Help us, O God of our salvation,
Because of the glory of thy name;
And deliver us and forgive our sins for thy name's sake.

10 Wherefore should the nations say, "Where is their God?"
May there be known among the nations, in our sight,
Vengeance for the blood of thy servants that has been shed!
11 May the groan of the prisoner come before thee!
According to thy great power make those doomed to death survive;
12 And requite to our neighbors, seven fold into their bosom,
The reproach wherewith they reproached thee, O Lord.
13 Then we, thy people, and the flock of thy pasture,
Will praise thee forever;
To all generations we will recount thy praise.

80

A PRAYER FOR RESTORATION

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: TO THE LILIES; A TESTIMONY OF ASAPH; A PSALM)

O SHEPHERD of Israel, give ear;
Thou that leadest Joseph like a flock,
Thou that art seated upon the cherubs, shine forth.
2 Before Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
Stir up thy might,
And come to our deliverance.
3 O God, restore us;
And let thy face shine, that we may be delivered.

4 O *Lord*, God of hosts,
How long thou hast been enraged at the prayer of thy people!
5 Thou hast fed them with the bread of tears.
Thou hast made them drink tears by the gallon.
6 Thou dost make us a butt for our neighbors,
And our foes make mock of us.
7 O God of hosts, restore us;
And let thy face shine that we may be delivered.

8 Thou didst remove a vine from Egypt;
Thou didst expel the nations and replant it;
9 Thou didst smooth the way for it,
So that it struck root and filled the land.
10 The mountains were covered with its shade,
And the cedars of God with its branches.
11 It sent forth its boughs to the sea,
And its tendrils to the river.

12 Why, then, hast thou broken down its walls,
So that all who pass by pluck its fruit?
13 The wild boar devours it,
And the beasts of the field feed upon it.
14 O God of hosts, restore us;
And let thy face shine that we may be delivered.

15 Look forth from the heavens and see,
And watch over this vine,
16 And the garden which thy right hand planted,
And the son thou didst raise up for thyself.
17 It is burned with fire; it is cut down.
May they perish at the rebuke of thy presence.
18 May thy hand be over the man,
Thy right hand over the man whom thou didst raise up for thyself!
19 He has not turned back from thee,
Revive us, and upon thy name we will call.
O *Lord*, God of hosts, restore us!
Let thy face shine upon us that we may be delivered!

81

AN APPEAL TO EXPERIENCE

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: ON *Gittith;* OF ASAPH]

SING joyously of God our strength;
Shout aloud of Jacob's God.
2 Raise the chant and beat the drum,
Both the sweet harp and the lute.
3 Blow the trumpet at the new moon,
At the full moon on our festal day.

4 For it is a statute in Israel,
An ordinance of Jacob's God.
5 He made it a law in Joseph,
When he went forth against the land of Egypt.
I heard an unknown tongue saying,
6 "I removed the burden from upon his shoulder;
His hands were freed from the heavy basket.
7 In trouble you called and I rescued you.
I answered you in the secret place of thunder
I tested you by the waters of Meribah. *Selah*

8 "Listen, O my people, while I warn you;
If you would but listen to me, O Israel!
9 There should be no strange god among you;
Nor should you bow down to a foreign god.
10 I, the *Lord*, am your God;
He who brought you up from the land of Egypt.
Open wide your mouth that I may fill it.
11 But my people did not listen to my voice.
Israel would have none of me.

12 "So I gave them over to their own self-will,
That they might follow their own devices.
13 If my people would but listen to me,
If Israel would only walk in my ways,
14 I would quickly humble their foes,
And turn my hand against their enemies.
15 Those who hate the *Lord* would fawn upon him,
And terror would be upon them forever;
16 But he would be fed the finest of the wheat,
And with honey from the rock would I satisfy you."

82

A HOMILY FOR "DIVINE" RULERS

[A PSALM OF ASAPH]

GOD takes his stand in the divine assembly;
In the midst of the gods he gives judgment.
2 "How long will you judge unjustly,
And show partiality toward the wicked? *Selah*

3 "Give justice to the weak and the fatherless;
Do right by the afflicted and wretched;
4 Set free the weak and needy;
Rescue them from the hand of the wicked."

5 They have neither knowledge nor sense;
They wander about in darkness;
All the foundations of the earth shake.

6 I say, "You are gods,
And all of you sons of the Most High!
7 Yet you will die as men do,
And fall like any prince."

8 Arise, O God, judge the earth!
For thou wilt take possession of all the nations.

83

A PRAYER FOR THE OVERTHROW OF NATIONS

[A SONG. A PSALM OF ASAPH]

KEEP not silence, O God;
Be not still; and be not quiet, O God!
2 For lo! thine enemies roar,
And those who hate thee carry a high head.

3 Against thy people they make crafty plans,
And take counsel together against thy hidden ones.
4 They say, "Come and let us destroy them that they be
no more a people,
And that the name Israel be remembered no more."
5 For they conspire with one mind;
Against thee do they make an alliance,
6 The tents of Edom and the Ishmaelites,
Moab and the Hagarenes,
7 Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek,
Philistia, with the inhabitants of Tyre;
8 Assyria also is leagued with them;
They are the strength of the children of Lot. *Selah*

9 Deal with them as with Midian,
As with Sisera and Jabin by the brook Kishon,
10 Who were destroyed at Endor;
They became dung for the ground.
11 Make their chieftains like Oreb and Zeeb,
All their princes like Zebah and Zalmunnah,
12 Who said, "We will seize for ourselves
The meadows of God."
13 My God, make them like a tumbleweed,
Like chaff before the wind.
14 Like a fire that burns up a wood,
And like the flame that sets mountains afire;
15 So do thou pursue them with thy tempest,
And terrify them with thy hurricane.
16 Fill their faces with shame,
That they may seek thy name, O *Lord!*
17 Let them be disgraced and terrified forever,
And may they be put to shame and perish;

18 That they may know that it is thou alone whose name
is the *Lord*,
That art Most High over all the earth.

84

THE JOY OF THE GODLY

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: ON THE *Gittith;* OF
THE SONS OF KORAH; A PSALM]

HOW lovely is thy dwelling-place, O *Lord* of hosts!
2 My spirit longs and pines
for the courts of the *Lord*.
My heart and my flesh give a shout of joy
for the living God!

3 Even the wren has found a house,
And the swallow a nest for herself,
Where she may put her young,
Thy altars, O *Lord* of hosts,
My King, and my God.

4 How happy are those who dwell in thy house,
Ever praising thee!
5 How happy the man whose strength is in thee!
The highways are in their minds!
6 Those who pass through the valley of Baca
Make it a region of springs;
The early rain covers it with blessings.
7 They go from strength to strength;
The God of gods is seen in Zion.

8 O *Lord*, God of hosts, hear my prayer;
Give heed, O God of Jacob!

9 O God, our shield, behold
And look upon the face of thy anointed!
10 For better is one day in thy courts than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather stand outside the door of the house of my God
Than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
11 For the *Lord* God is a sun and shield.
Favor and honor the *Lord* bestows;
He does not withhold prosperity from them that walk in integrity.

12 O *Lord* of hosts,
How happy the man who trusts in thee!

85

A PLEA FOR GOD'S PARDON

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: OF THE SONS OF KORAH; A PSALM]

THOU wast favorable to thy land, O *Lord;*
Thou didst restore the fortune of Jacob;
2 Thou didst pardon the guilt of thy people;
Thou didst cover up all their sin. *Selah*

3 Thou didst withdraw all thy wrath;
Thou didst turn away from thy hot anger.
4 Restore us, O God of our deliverance,
And break off thy vexation against us!

5 Wilt thou be angry with us forever?
Wilt thou prolong thy anger for generations?
6 Wilt thou not revive us again,
That thy people may rejoice in thee?

7 Show us thy grace, O *Lord;*
And grant us thy salvation.

8 I would hear what God the *Lord* will speak.
Surely he will speak prosperity unto his people and his saints,
And those who turn their hearts to him.
9 For his salvation is close to them that fear him,
That honor may dwell in our land.

10 Grace and fidelity are met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
11 Fidelity springs up from the earth,
And righteousness looks forth from the heavens.

12 The *Lord* will give prosperity,
And our land will yield its increase.
13 Righteousness will go before it
And mark the way with its footsteps.

86

A PLEA FOR GOD'S HELP

[A PRAYER OF DAVID]

INCLINE thy ear, O *Lord*, answer me,
For I am afflicted and needy.
2 Preserve me, for I am a pious man.
O Thou, my God, deliver thy servant who trusts in thee.

3 Be gracious unto me, O Lord;
For unto thee do I call all day long.

4 Gladden the heart of thy servant,
For I lift up my heart unto thee.

5 For thou, O Lord, art good and forgiving;
And rich in grace to all that call upon thee.
6 Listen to my prayer, O *Lord;*
And heed my supplicating voice!

7 In my day of trouble I call upon thee,
For thou wilt answer me.
8 There is none like thee among the gods, O Lord;
Nor are there any works like thine.

9 All the nations which thou hast made,
Will come and bow down before thee, O Lord;
And will honor thy name;
10 For thou art great and doest wonders;
Thou alone art God.

11 Teach me thy way, O *Lord*,
That I may walk in fidelity to thee,
That my heart may rejoice in the fear of thy name.
12 I will thank thee, O Lord, my God, with all my heart;
And I will honor thy name forever.

13 For thy grace toward me is great,
In that thou hast rescued me from the depths of Sheol.
14 O God, the proud have risen up against me,
And a gang of bandits seeks my life,
And does not keep thee in mind.

15 But thou, O Lord, art a merciful and gracious God.
Slow to anger and rich in grace and fidelity.

16 Turn to me and pity me;
Grant thy servant thy strength,
And deliver the son of thy handmaid.

17 Work in my behalf a sign for good,
That those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,
Because thou, O *Lord*, hast helped me and comforted me.

87

ZION GLORIES IN HER CHILDREN

[OF THE SONS OF KORAH; A PSALM; A SONG]

HIS foundation is in the holy mountains.
2 The *Lord* loves the gates of Zion
More than all other dwellings of Jacob.
3 Glorious things he speaks of you,
O city of God. *Selah*

4 I may mention Rahab and Babylon on account of their famous men,
Philistia, Tyre, and also Ethiopia;
"Such a one was born there!"
5 But of Zion it will be said,
"This one and that one were born in her!"
And that will place her in the highest rank.
6 The *Lord*, when he lists the nations, will record,
"Such a one was born there."
7 Those who behold will be like men dreaming,
All who closely watch you.

88

LAMENTATION OF ONE IN TROUBLE

[A SONG; A PSALM OF THE SONS OF KORAH. FOR THE DIRECTOR: UPON *machalath leannoth;* A *maskil* OF HEMAN THE EZRACHITE]

I CALL for help by day, O *Lord*, my God;
I cry before thee at night;
2 Let my prayer come before thee;
Incline thy ear to my call!

3 For I am surfeited with troubles,
And my life verges on Sheol.
4 I am reckoned among those that go down to the pit;
I am become like a man without help,
5 Separated among the dead,
Like the slain that lie in the grave,
Whom thou dost no more remember,
For they are cut off from thy hand.
6 Thou hast put me in the deepest pit,
In darkest regions, in the depths.

7 Thy wrath rests upon me,
And thou dost press down upon me all thy breakers.
8 Thou hast removed my acquaintances far from me;
Thou hast made me a horror to them;
I am shut in and cannot go out.
9 My eye wastes away with sorrow;
I have called upon thee, O *Lord*, all day long;
I have spread out my hands toward thee.

10 Is it for the dead that thou wilt do wonders?
Will the ghosts arise to thank thee? *Selah*

11 Will thy grace be recounted in the grave?
Or thy faithfulness in Hades?
12 Will thy wonders be made known in the darkness?
Or thy righteousness in the land of oblivion?

13 But I, O *Lord*, call unto thee for help,
And in the morning my prayer comes before thee.
14 Wherefore, O *Lord*, dost thou reject me,
And hide thy face from me?
15 I have been afflicted and at the point of death from my youth up;
I have borne thy terrors; I am overcome.

16 Thy fury has gone over me;
Thy terrors have destroyed me;
17 They surround me like water all day long;
They encircle me completely.
18 Thou hast put friend and companion far from me,
And my acquaintances are in the place of darkness.

89

THE SORROWS OF JUDAH

[A *maskil* OF ETHAN THE EZRACHITE]

THE gracious deeds of the *Lord* I will sing forever;
Throughout the generations I will proclaim thy faithfulness with my mouth.
2 For I say, "Grace will be renewed forever;
In the heavens thou dost establish thy faithfulness."

3 I made an agreement with my chosen one,
I swore to David, my servant,

4 "I will establish thy descendants forever;
And I will build thy throne for generations." *Selah*

5 The heavens praise thy wonders, O *Lord*,
And thy faithfulness in the divine assembly.
6 For who in the heavens can be compared to the *Lord?*
Who is like the *Lord* among the gods?

7 A God to be feared in the divine council,
Great and terrible over all around him;
8 O *Lord*, God of hosts,
Who is strong like thee, O *Lord?*
And thy faithfulness is round about thee.

9 Thou rulest over the raging of the sea;
When its waves rise thou stillest them.
10 Thou hast crushed Rahab like one who is slain;
With thy strong arm thou hast scattered thy foes.

11 The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine;
The world and its contents thou hast founded.
12 The north and the south thou didst create.
Tabor and Hermon celebrate thy name.

13 Thine is an arm with power.
Thy hand is strong; thy right hand is high.
14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of thy throne.
Grace and faithfulness go before thee.

15 How happy are the people who know the festal trumpet-call!
O *Lord*, they walk in the light of thy face.
16 In thy name they rejoice all day long;
And through thy righteousness are they exalted.

17 For thou art the glory of their strength.
And through thy favor our horn is exalted.
18 For the *Lord* is our shield,
And the holy one of Israel our King.

19 Once thou didst speak in vision to thy faithful one,
And didst say, "I have placed a diadem upon a warrior;
I have raised up a chosen one from the people.
20 I have found David my servant,
With my holy oil I have anointed him,
21 Whom my hand holds firm,
And my arm strengthens.

22 "The enemy will not overcome him;
Nor the wicked man afflict him;
23 For I will crush his foes before him,
And those who hate him I will smite.

24 "My faithfulness and my grace will be with him;
And through my name his horn will be exalted.
25 I will set his hand upon the sea,
And his right hand upon the river.

26 "He will call unto me, 'Thou art my father,
My God, and the rock of my deliverance.'
27 And I shall make him the first-born,
The highest of the kings of the earth.

28 "I shall always keep my grace for him;
And my covenant will stand firm for him;
29 And I will give him posterity forever,
And his throne will be like the days of the heavens.

30 "If his sons forsake my law,
And do not walk in my judgments;

31 If they violate my decrees,
And observe not my commands,

32 "Then I will punish their offense with the rod,
And their guilt with blows;
33 But my grace I will not withdraw from them;
Nor will I be false to my fidelity.

34 "I will not violate my covenant,
Nor will I alter what my lips have uttered.
35 Once I swore by my holiness,
(And I would not lie to David)

36 "That his posterity should be forever,
And his throne be like the sun before me,
37 Like the moon it should be established forever,
And should stand firm as long as the skies."

38 But thou hast rejected and cast off,
Thou hast raged against thine anointed.
39 Thou hast broken the covenant with thy servant;
Thou hast defiled his diadem in the dust.

40 Thou hast broken down all his walls;
Thou hast laid his forts in ruin.
41 All that pass by plunder him;
He has become a jest to his neighbors.

42 Thou hast raised up the right hand of his enemies;
Thou hast made all his foes glad.
43 Moreover thou hast turned the edge of his sword,
And hast not supported him in battle.

44 Thou hast put an end to his splendor,
And hurled his throne to the ground.

45 Thou hast cut off the days of his prime,
And covered him over with shame. *Selah*

46 How long, O *Lord?* Wilt thou hide thyself forever?
Will thy wrath burn on like a fire?
47 Remember, O *Lord*, what our span of life is;
For what frailty thou hast created all the sons of men.

48 What man can live and not see death,
Can deliver himself from the power of Sheol? *Selah*
49 Where are thy former deeds of grace, O Lord,
Which thou didst swear to David by thy faithfulness?

50 Remember, O Lord, the disgrace of thy servant,
How I carry in my bosom the reproach of the peoples;
51 How thy foes insult, O *Lord*,
How they insult the representatives of thy anointed!

52 Blessed be the *Lord* forever,
Amen and amen.

BOOK IV

PSS. 90–106

90

A PLEA FOR GOD'S MERCY

[A PRAYER OF MOSES, THE MAN OF GOD]

O LORD, thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations.
2 Before the mountains were born,
Or ere thou hadst brought forth the earth and the world,
Even from everlasting to everlasting thou art, O God.

3 Thou turnest man back to dust,
And sayest, "Return, O sons of man."
4 For a thousand years in thy sight
Are but as yesterday when it passes,
And as a watch in the night.

5 Thou cuttest them off; they are as a dream;
They are like grass which renews itself in the morning;
6 In the morning it flourishes and shoots up,
At evening it is cut down and withers.

7 For we are destroyed by thy anger,
And by thy wrath we are ruined.
8 Thou dost place our crimes before thee,
Our secret sins in the light of thy face.

9 For all our days vanish in thy wrath;
We come to an end; our years are like a cobweb wiped away.
10 The length of our life is seventy years,
Perchance through strength eighty years;
And their whole extent is trouble and travail.
For it is quickly cut off and we fly away.

11 Who knows the power of thy anger?
Or thy wrath according to the fear due thee?
12 So teach us to number our days
That we may obtain a wise heart.

13 Return, O *Lord;* how long?
And relent thyself as to thy servants.
14 Satisfy us in the morning with thy mercy,
That we may shout with joy and be glad throughout our days.
15 Gladden us in proportion to the days wherein thou hast afflicted us,
And the years wherein we have seen disaster.

16 May thy work appear unto thy servants,
And thy splendor be upon their children.
17 May the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
And the work of our hands do thou establish upon us;
The work of our hands establish thou it.

91

THE FAVOR OF GOD UPON THE FAITHFUL

HE WHO dwells under the shelter of the Most High,
Who abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
2 Says of the *Lord*, "My refuge and my fortress,
My God, in whom I trust."

3 For he rescues you from the snare of the fowler,
From the deadly pestilence;

4 With his pinions he covers you,
And under his wings you find refuge.
His faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

5 You will not be afraid of the terror by night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day,
6 Nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
Nor the plague that wastes at noonday.

7 A thousand may fall at your side,
And ten thousand at your right hand;
But it will not come near you.
8 You will but gaze upon with your eyes
And see the reward of the wicked.

9 Because you have made the *Lord* your refuge,
And the Most High your habitation,
10 No disaster will befall you,
Nor calamity come near your tent.

11 For he will give his angels charge over you,
To guard you in all your ways.
12 They will bear you up upon their hands,
Lest you strike your foot upon a stone.
13 Upon the lion and the adder you may tread;
Upon the young lion and the dragon you may trample.

14 Because he clings fast to me in love, I will deliver him;
I will set him on high because he knows my name.
15 When he calls upon me, I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble;
I will set him free and honor him.
16 With long life will I satisfy him,
And show him my salvation.

92

A HYMN OF GRATITUDE

[A PSALM; A SONG FOR THE SABBATH DAY]

IT IS good to give thanks to the *Lord*,
And to sing praises to thy name, O Most High;
2 To proclaim thy grace in the morning,
And thy faithfulness every night,
3 Upon the ten-stringed lyre and the lute,
To a melody with the harp.

4 For thou hast made me glad, O *Lord*, by thy works;
Of the deeds of thy hands I joyfully sing.
5 How great are thy doings, O *Lord;*
How very deep thy designs!

6 A stupid man cannot know,
A senseless one cannot understand this.
7 When the wicked shoot up like grass,
And all wrongdoers flourish,
It is that they may be destroyed forever.

8 But thou art on high forever, O *Lord!*
9 For lo, thine enemies, O *Lord;*
For lo, thine enemies will perish!
All wrongdoers will be scattered.

10 But thou hast exalted my horn like that of the wild ox;
I am anointed with fresh oil.
11 And my eye looks upon them that lie in wait for me;
My ears hear the wicked that rise up against me.

12 The righteous will flourish like the palm tree;
He will grow high like a cedar in Lebanon.

13 Planted in the house of the *Lord*,
They will flourish in the courts of our God.

14 They will still yield fruit in old age;
Full of sap and green will they be;
15 To proclaim that the *Lord* is right,
My rock, in whom there is no wrong,

93
THE RULER OF THE UNIVERSE

THE *Lord* is king; he is clothed with majesty.
The *Lord* is clothed, he is girded with strength.
Indeed, the world is established immovable.
2 Thy throne has been established from of old;
Thou art from remotest antiquity.

3 The floods have lifted up, O *Lord*,
The floods have lifted up their voice;
The floods lift up their roar
4 Above the sound of many waters.
Mightier than the breakers of the sea,
The *Lord* on high is mighty!

5 Thy testimonies are very sure.
Holiness befits thy house,
O *Lord*, for all time.

94
DESTRUCTION TO THE WICKED!

O *Lord*, thou avenging God,
O thou avenging God, shine forth!
2 Rise up, O judge of the earth;
Render to the proud their deserts.

3 How long shall the wicked, O *Lord*,
How long shall the wicked exult,
4 Shall they bubble over speaking insolence,
Shall all wrongdoers brag?

5 They crush thy people, O *Lord*,
And they afflict thy heritage.
6 The widow and the stranger they slay,
And the fatherless they murder.
7 And they say, "The Lord does not see;
And the God of Jacob does not observe."

8 Ponder, O stupid ones among the people,
When will you become wise, O fools?
9 Does he who planted the ear not hear?
Or he who formed the eye not see?
10 Will he who instructs the nations not punish them,
He who teaches man knowledge?
11 The *Lord* knows the devices of men,
That they are but a breath.

12 Happy the man whom thou chastenest,
And teachest of thy law, O *Lord;*
13 That he may have relief from times of trouble,
Until the pit be dug for the wicked!
14 For the *Lord* will not spurn his people,
Nor abandon his heritage.
15 For judgment will return to the righteous,
And after him all the upright in heart will go.

16 Who rises up for me against the doers of evil?
Who takes his stand for me against the wrongdoers?
17 Had not the *Lord* been my help,
I should soon have lain down in silence!

18 If I think, "My foot is slipping,"
Thy grace, O *Lord*, sustains me!
19 When my cares are many within me,
Thy comforts give me cheer.

20 Can the throne of wickedness be allied with thee,
That frames wickedness by statute—
21 They who make assaults upon the life of the righteous,
And pronounce condemnation upon innocent blood?
22 But the *Lord* is my high tower;
My God is the rock of my refuge.
23 And he requites them for their guilt,
And for their wickedness destroys them.
The *Lord*, our God, destroys them!

95

A PAEAN OF PRAISE

COME, let us sing unto the *Lord*,
Let us raise joyful shouts to the rock of our deliverance!
2 Let us come before his face with thanksgiving;
Let us raise joyful shouts to him in psalms.

3 For the *Lord* is a great God,
And a great king over all gods.
4 In his hand are the depths of the earth;
The summits of the hills are his also.
5 The sea is his, for he made it;
And his hands formed the dry land.

6 Come, let us worship and bow down;
Let us kneel before the *Lord*, our maker!

7 For he is our God;
And we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Today, if you obey his voice,
8 Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
As in the day at Massah in the wilderness,
9 When your fathers tried me,
Tested me, and saw my works.
10 For forty years I loathed that generation,
And I said, "They are a people who err in their hearts,
And do not know my ways."
So that I swore in my anger,
That they should not enter into my rest.

96
THE GLORY OF GOD

SING to the *Lord* a new song;
Sing to the *Lord*, all the earth;
2 Sing to the *Lord*, bless his name;
Publish his deliverance abroad from day to day.
3 Tell among the nations his glory,
Among all the peoples, his wonders.

4 For great is the *Lord* and greatly to be praised.
Fearful is he above all gods.
5 For all the gods of the peoples are nonentities,
But the *Lord* made the heavens.
6 Honor and majesty are before him;
Strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

7 Ascribe to the *Lord*, O families of peoples,
Ascribe to the *Lord* glory and strength.

8 Ascribe to the *Lord* the glory of his name;
Bring an offering and come into his courts.
9 Worship the *Lord* in holy array,
Tremble before him all the earth.

10 Tell among the nations that the *Lord* is king;
The world also is established that it cannot be moved.
11 He judges the peoples in equity.
Let the heavens rejoice and the earth exult,
The sea roar, and its fulness.
12 Let the field exult and all that is therein.
Then let all the trees of the wood shout for joy
13 Before the *Lord*, for he comes,
For he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
And peoples with his faithfulness.

97

THE MAJESTY OF GOD

THE *Lord* reigns; let the earth rejoice!
Let many shores be glad!
2 Clouds and darkness are around him;
Righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

3 Fire goes before him,
And blazes around his steps.
4 His lightnings illuminate the world;
The earth beholds and trembles.
5 The mountains melt like wax before the *Lord*,
Before the Lord of all the earth.

6 The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
And all the peoples see his glory.
7 All who serve wrought images are put to shame,
They who prided themselves on their nonentities.
Worship him, all you gods!

8 Zion hears and rejoices,
And the daughters of Judah exult,
Because of thy judgments, O *Lord*.
9 For thou, O *Lord*, art the highest over all the earth;
Thou art exalted high above all gods.

10 The *Lord* loves those who hate evil;
He preserves the lives of his saints;
From the hand of the wicked he rescues them.
11 Light is sown for the righteous,
And joy for the upright in heart.
12 Rejoice in the *Lord*, O righteous,
And praise his holy name.

98

A SONG OF TRIUMPH

[A PSALM]

SING to the *Lord* a new song,
For he has done wonderful things!
His right hand and his holy arm have brought him victory.
2 The *Lord* has made known his victory;
In the sight of the nations he has revealed his righteousness.

3 He has remembered his grace and his faithfulness to the
house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen the triumph of our
God.

4 Shout aloud to the *Lord*, all the earth;
Rejoice, be jubilant, and sing praises;
5 Sing praises to the *Lord* with the lyre,
With the lyre and sound of song.
6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn,
Shout aloud before the king, the *Lord!*

7 Let the sea roar and all that is within it;
The world and those living in it!
8 Let the rivers clap their hands;
Let the mountains also sing,
9 Before the *Lord*, for he is coming to judge the earth!
He will judge the world with righteousness,
And the peoples with equity.

99

THE HOLY GOD

THE *Lord* is king; let the peoples tremble!
He sits upon the cherubs; let the earth quake!
2 The *Lord* is great in Zion,
And high is he over all the peoples.
3 Let them praise thy great and terrible name!
Holy is he and strong!

4 O King, who lovest justice,
Thou hast established equity;
Thou hast wrought justice and righteousness in Jacob.

5 Exalt the *Lord*, our God!
And prostrate yourselves at his footstool!
Holy is he!

6 Moses and Aaron were among his priests;
And Samuel was among those calling upon his name.
They called upon the *Lord* and he answered them.
7 Through the pillar of cloud he spoke to them.
They kept his testimonies and the law which he gave them.

8 O *Lord*, our God, thou didst answer them!
Thou wast a forgiving God to them;
But one taking vengeance for their sins.
9 Exalt the *Lord*, our God,
And prostrate yourselves at his holy mountain!
For holy is the *Lord*, our God!

100

THE FAITHFUL GOD

[A PSALM FOR THE THANK-OFFERING]

HAIL the *Lord* joyously, all the earth!
2 Serve the *Lord* with gladness!
Come before him with joyful song!
3 Know that the *Lord* is God!
He made us, and his we are,
His people and the sheep of his pasture.

4 Come into his gates with thanksgiving,
And into his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
5 For the *Lord* is good; his grace is forever;
And his faithfulness for all generations.

101

THE MORAL CODE OF A KING

[OF DAVID. A PSALM]

I WILL sing of grace and justice;
Of thee, O *Lord*, I will sing praises.
2 I will give heed to the path of the perfect.
How long till thou wilt come to me?

I will walk in the integrity of my heart,
within my own home.
3 I will set before my eyes no base thing;
I loathe the doing of transgression;
it shall not cling to me.
4 A perverse heart is far from me;
I know no evil.
5 If a man slanders his neighbor in secret,
I destroy him.
The supercilious and high-minded
I cannot endure.
6 My eye is upon the faithful in the land,
that they may dwell with me.
If a man walks in the perfect way,
he shall serve me.

7 He shall not dwell within my house
who practices deceit.
He who tells lies shall not be established
before my eyes.
8 Every morning I will destroy
all the wicked of the land,
Cutting off from the city of the *Lord*
all the malefactors.

102

THE EVERLASTING GOD

[A PRAYER OF THE AFFLICTED WHEN HE IS OVERWHELMED AND POURS OUT HIS PLAINT BEFORE THE *Lord*]

HEAR my prayer, O *Lord*,
And let my cry for help come before thee!
2 Do not hide thy face from me in my day of trouble;
Incline thine ear unto me;
In the day when I call answer me speedily.
3 For my days vanish like smoke,
And my bones are charred like a hearth.
4 My heart is stricken and withered like grass;
For I forget to eat my food.
5 Because of the sound of my moaning,
My bone cleaves to my flesh.

6 I am like a pelican of the wilderness;
I am become like an owl of the ruins.
7 I am sleepless and I am become
Like a solitary bird upon the roof.
8 All day long my foes insult me.
Those who deride me curse by me.
9 For I eat ashes like bread;
And my drink do I mingle with tears;
10 Because of thine anger and thy wrath;
For thou hast lifted me up and cast me off.
11 My days are like a lengthened shadow;
And I am withered like grass.

12 But thou, O *Lord*, abidest forever,
And thy name is for countless generations.

13 Thou wilt arise; thou wilt have pity on Zion.
For it is time to be gracious to her; for the fixed time has come.
14 For thy servants delight in her stones,
And her dust they commiserate.
15 And the nations will fear the name of the *Lord*,
And all the kings of the earth thy glory,
16 When the *Lord* rebuilds Zion,
When he is seen in his glory,
17 When he turns himself toward the prayer of the destitute,
And does not despise their prayer.

18 Let this be written for coming generations,
That people yet unborn may praise the *Lord:*
19 That he looked forth from his holy height,
The *Lord* looked from the heavens toward the earth,
20 To hear the groans of the prisoner,
To set free those doomed to death,
21 That they may recount in Zion the renown of the *Lord*,
And his praise in Jerusalem,
22 When peoples gather together,
And kingdoms to serve the *Lord*.

23 He has weakened my strength,
He has cut short my days,
24 I say, "O my God, take me not away in the midst of my days;
Thou whose years are for countless generations!
25 Of old thou didst lay the foundation of the earth;
And the heavens are the work of thy hands.

26 They may perish, but thou wilt endure;
All of them may wear out like a garment;
Thou mayest change them like clothing and they will change;
27 But thou art always the same,
And thy years have no end.
28 The children of thy servants will abide;
And their posterity will be established before thee."

103

THE GOODNESS OF GOD

[OF DAVID]

LET my whole being bless the *Lord;*
And all that is within me bless his holy name!
2 Let my whole being bless the *Lord*,
And forget not all his benefits,
3 Who forgives all my guilt,
Who heals all my sicknesses,
4 Who rescues my life from the pit,
Who crowns me with grace and mercy,
5 Who satisfies my desires with good,
So that my youth renews itself like an eagle.

6 The *Lord* executes righteousness
And justice for all that are oppressed.
7 He made known his ways to Moses,
His deeds to the children of Israel.
8 The *Lord* is merciful and compassionate,
Long-suffering, and abounding in grace.
9 He will not always chide,
Nor hold his anger forever.

10 He has not treated us according to our sins,
Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

11 But high as the heavens are above the earth,
So great is his grace toward them that revere him;
12 Far as the east is from the west,
So far has he removed our offenses from us.
13 As a father is kind to his children,
So the *Lord* is kind to those who revere him.

14 For he knows our frame;
He remembers that we are but dust.
15 A man's days are like the grass.
Like a flower of the field, so he blossoms;
16 For the wind passes over it, and it is not,
And its place knows it no more.
17 But the grace of the *Lord* is from age to age upon those who revere him,
And his righteousness to children's children,
18 For those who keep his covenant,
And remember to do his commands.
19 The *Lord* has established his throne in the heavens,
And his kingdom rules over all.

20 Bless the *Lord*, O his angels,
Mighty beings, who do his bidding,
Obeying his spoken word!
21 Bless the *Lord*, all his hosts,
His ministers who carry out his will!
22 Bless the *Lord*, all his works,
In all parts of his dominion!
Let my whole being bless the *Lord!*

104

THE CREATOR AND SUSTAINER OF THE UNIVERSE

LET my whole being bless the *Lord!*
O *Lord*, my God, thou art very great;
Thou art robed with majesty and honor;
2 Who veilest thyself in light as in a garment;
Who stretchest out the heavens like a tent;
3 Who lays the beams of his upper chambers in the waters;
Who makes the clouds his chariot;
Who walks upon the wings of the wind;
4 Who makes the winds his messengers;
His ministers, flames of fire.
5 He founded the earth upon its pillars,
That it might not be moved forever and ever.

6 Thou didst cover it with the deep as with a garment;
The waters stood upon the mountains.
7 At thy rebuke they fled;
At the sound of thy thunder they fled in terror.
8 The mountains rose, the valleys sank down,
To the place which thou hadst founded for them.
9 Thou didst set a limit which they should not cross over,
So that they should not again cover the earth.

10 He causes fountains to flow in the valleys;
Between mountains they run.
11 They furnish drink for all the beasts of the field;
Wild asses quench their thirst there.
12 Beside them the birds of the heavens dwell,
From among the branches they send forth song.

13 Thou waterest the mountains from thy upper chambers;
The earth is filled full of the fruit of thy works.

14 He makes grass grow for the cattle,
And fodder for the working animals of man,
So that bread may come forth from the earth;
15 And wine may cheer man's heart,
Making his face brighter than oil;
And bread to stay man's heart.

16 The trees of the *Lord* are satisfied,
The cedars of Lebanon which he planted;
17 Wherein the birds build their nests,
And the stork, whose home is the cypress.
18 The high mountains are for the wild goats;
The rocks are a refuge for the marmots.

19 He made the moon for fixed seasons;
The sun knows its time of setting;
20 Thou makest darkness and it becomes night,
In which all the beasts of the forest prowl,
21 The young lions roaring after prey,
And seeking their food from God.
22 When the sun rises, they withdraw,
And crouch in their dens.
23 Man goes forth to his work,
And to his labor until evening.

24 How many are thy works, O *Lord!*
In wisdom hast thou made them all.
The earth is full of thy creations.
25 There is the sea, great and broad,
Where are creeping things innumerable:

Creatures small and great
Go there like ships;
26 The Leviathan whom thou didst form to play with.
27 They all wait upon thee,
To give them their food in due season.
28 What thou givest them, they gather up;
When thou openest thy hand, they are satisfied with good things.
29 When thou hidest thy face, they are worried;
When thou takest away their breath they die,
And turn again into dust.
30 When thou sendest forth thy breath, they are created;
And thou renewest the face of the earth.

31 May the glory of the *Lord* be forever!
May the *Lord* rejoice in his works!
32 He looks at the earth and it quakes;
He touches the mountains and they smoke!
33 I will sing of the *Lord* as long as I live;
I will play praises to my God as long as I breathe.
34 May my meditation please him!
I will rejoice in the *Lord.*
35 Let sinners vanish from the earth!
And may the wicked be no more!
Let my whole being bless the *Lord!*
Hallelujah!

105

THE WONDERS OF GOD

GIVE thanks to the *Lord;* call upon his name!
Make known his deeds among the peoples!
2 Sing to him; play praises to him!
Tell of all his wonders!

3 Glory in his holy name!
May the heart of those who seek the *Lord* rejoice!
4 Inquire of the *Lord* and his might!
Seek his face continually!

5 Remember the wonders that he has done,
His portents, and the judgments of his mouth,
6 O descendants of Abraham, his servant,
Children of Jacob, his chosen!
7 He is the *Lord*, our God;
His judgments are in all the earth.
8 He remembers his covenant forever,
The word he has given, for a thousand generations;
9 The covenant he made with Abraham,
And his oath to Isaac.

10 For he confirmed it to Jacob as a statute,
To Israel as an eternal covenant;
11 Saying, "To you I give the land of Canaan,
As your portion and inheritance."
12 When they were but few in number,
Of slight importance and but strangers therein;
13 When they went back and forth from one nation to another,
And from one kingdom to another people,
14 He permitted no man to oppress them,
And warned kings concerning them,
15 "Touch not my anointed,
And do my prophets no harm!"

16 Then he called a famine upon the land.
He broke every staff of bread.

17 He sent forth a man before them;
Joseph was sold as a slave.
18 They forced his feet into fetters;
He himself was laid in irons.
19 Until what he had said came about,
The word of the *Lord* tested him.

20 The king sent and released him,
The ruler of peoples, and set him free.
21 He made him overseer of his house,
And ruler over all his possessions;
22 That he might give orders to his officers as he pleased,
And might instruct his elders.

23 Then Israel went into Egypt,
And Jacob dwelt in the land of Ham.
24 And he made his people very prolific,
And made them more numerous than their foes.
25 He changed their heart so that they hated his people,
So that they dealt treacherously with his servants.
26 He sent forth Moses, his servant,
And Aaron, whom he had chosen.

27 They wrought among them wondrous signs,
And portents in the land of Ham.
28 He sent forth darkness so that it became dark;
But they rebelled against his words.
29 He turned their water into blood,
And so killed their fish.
30 Their land swarmed with frogs;
They were in the chambers of their kings.
31 He spoke and a swarm of flies came,
Mosquitoes throughout their country.

32 He gave them hail for rain;
Flaming fire was in their land.
33 He smote their vine and fig tree,
And broke down the trees of their country.
34 He spoke, and the locust came,
And insects innumerable.
35 They ate up all the fodder in their land;
They ate up all the products of their soil.
36 Then he smote all the first-born in their land,
The first-fruits of all their virile strength.

37 And he sent them forth with silver and gold,
And there was no straggler in their ranks;
38 Egypt was glad when they went forth,
For terror had fallen upon them.
39 He spread out a cloud as a screen,
And fire to give light by night.
40 They asked, and he brought in quails;
And with bread from the heavens he satisfied them.
41 He split the rock and water flowed forth;
There ran a river in the sands,

42 For he remembered his sacred word
To Abraham, his servant.
43 And he brought forth his people with joy,
His chosen ones with joyous song.
44 And he gave them the lands of the nations;
Of the toil of the peoples they took possession.
45 That they might keep his statutes
And observe his laws.
Hallelujah!

106

THE LONG-SUFFERING GOD

HALLELUJAH!
Oh, give thanks to the *Lord*, for he is good;
For his grace is everlasting.
2 Who can tell the mighty deeds of the *Lord?*
Or publish all his praise?

3 Happy are they who observe justice,
Who do right at all times!
4 Remember me, O *Lord*, in thy favor toward thy people;
Visit me when thou deliverest them;
5 That I may look upon the welfare of thy chosen,
That I may rejoice in the joy of thy nation,
That I may glory with thine inheritance.

6 We have sinned like our fathers;
We have done evil; we have acted wickedly.
7 Our fathers in Egypt disregarded thy wonders;
They remembered not the abundance of thy grace;
But rebelled against the Most High at the Sea of Reeds.
8 Yet he delivered them for the sake of his reputation,
In order to make known his might.
9 So he rebuked the Sea of Reeds and it became dry,
And he led them through the deeps as through a meadow.
10 He rescued them from hostile hands,
And delivered them from the power of the foe.
11 And the water covered their enemies;
Not one of them survived.
12 Then did they believe his word;
They sang his praise.

13 But they soon forgot his deeds;
They waited not for his advice.
14 They felt a craving in the wilderness,
And they tried God in the waste.
15 And he granted their request,
But sent disease upon them.
16 When they were envious of Moses in the camp,
And of Aaron, the holy one of the *Lord*,
17 The earth opened and swallowed Dathan,
And engulfed the company of Abiram.
18 Fire burned up their company;
Fire consumed the wicked.

19 They made a calf in Horeb,
And worshiped a molten image.
20 Thus they exchanged their glory
For the image of an ox that eats fodder!
21 They forgot God who had delivered them,
Who had done great things in Egypt,
22 Wonderful things in the land of Ham,
Terrible things at the Sea of Reeds.
23 So he threatened to destroy them,
Had not Moses, his chosen one,
Stood in the breach before him
To turn back his wrath from destruction.

24 Then they rejected the pleasant land,
They did not believe his promise;
25 But grumbled in their tents.
They did not listen to the voice of the *Lord*.
26 So he swore to them with uplifted hand,
That he would let them perish in the desert,

27 And that he would scatter their descendants among
the nations;
And strew them through the lands.
28 They allied themselves with Baal of Peor,
And ate sacrifices offered to the dead.
29 They offended him by their deeds,
And plague broke out among them.
30 But Phinehas stood up and executed judgment,
And the plague was checked.
31 That has been credited to him as righteousness
Throughout the generations forever.

32 They stirred him to anger also at the waters of Meribah,
And it went hard with Moses on their account,
33 Because they embittered his spirit,
And he spoke rashly with his lips.
34 They did not destroy the peoples,
As the *Lord* had commanded them;
35 But mingled with the nations,
And learned their works.
36 So they served their idols,
Which became a snare to them.

37 And they sacrificed their sons
And their daughters to demons.
38 And they shed innocent blood,
The blood of their sons and their daughters,
Whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan;
And the land was polluted with bloodshed.
39 They became unclean through their acts,
And played the harlot by their deeds.

40 So the anger of the *Lord* was hot against his people,
And he loathed his heritage.

41 And he gave them over to the power of the nations,
And those who hated them ruled over them.
42 Their enemies oppressed them,
And they were subdued under their hand.
43 Many times did he deliver them,
But they followed their own stubborn counsel,
And were brought low by their guilt.

44 But he saw when they were in trouble,
When he heard their cry for help;
45 And he recalled for them his covenant,
And had compassion in accord with his plenteous grace.
46 He made them objects of compassion, also,
On the part of all their captors.

47 Deliver us, O *Lord*, our God,
And gather us from among the nations,
That we may give thanks to thy holy name,
That we may glory in thy praise.
48 Blessed be the *Lord*, the God of Israel,
From age unto age;
And let all the people say, "Amen."
Hallelujah!

BOOK V

PSS 107–50

107

GOD IN HISTORY

OH, GIVE thanks to the *Lord*, for he is good
For his grace is everlasting."
2 So may they say, whom the *Lord* has rescued,
Whom he has rescued from the hand of the foe;
3 Those whom he has gathered in from the lands,
From east and west,
From north and south.

4 They wandered in the wilderness, in the waste,
They found no way to an inhabited town.
5 They were hungry and thirsty,
Their courage collapsed within them.
6 When they cried to the *Lord* in their trouble,
He delivered them from their distress,
7 And guided them in the right way,
So that they came to an inhabited town.
8 Let them thank the *Lord* for his grace,
And his wonders toward the sons of men.
9 For he satisfied the thirsty spirit,
And the hungry heart he filled with good.

10 Those who dwelt in darkness and in deepest gloom,
Bound in misery and iron;
11 Because they opposed the orders of God,
And spurned the counsel of the Most High;
12 He bowed down their heart with labor;
They stumbled, with none to help.
13 When they cried to the *Lord* in their trouble,
He delivered them from their distress.

14 He brought them out of darkness and deepest gloom,
And burst their bonds asunder.
15 Let them thank the *Lord* for his grace,
And his wonders toward the sons of men.
16 For he shattered bronze doors,
And broke down iron bars.

17 Fools, because of their wicked ways
And because of their guilty deeds, were afflicted.
18 They loathed every kind of food,
And they drew near to the gates of death.
19 When they cried to the *Lord* in their trouble,
He delivered them from their distress.
20 He sent forth his word to heal them,
And to free them from their graves.
21 Let them thank the *Lord* for his grace,
And his wonders toward the sons of men.
22 And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving,
And tell of his works with song.

23 Those who go down to the sea in ships,
And do business in the great waters,
24 They saw the works of the *Lord*,
And his wonders in the deep.
25 For he spoke and raised up the storm-wind,
Which lifted its billows on high.
26 They mounted to the heavens, they descended to the depths.
They were dissolved in their distress.
27 They reeled and staggered like a drunken man,
And were at their wits' end.
28 When they cried to the *Lord* in their trouble,
He delivered them from their distress.

29 He stilled the storm to a whisper,
And the waves were hushed.
30 Then they rejoiced because they were quiet,
And he brought them to their desired haven.
31 Let them thank the *Lord* for his grace,
And his wonders to the children of men.
32 And let them exalt him in the assembly of the people,
And praise him in the company of the elders.

33 He turned rivers into a desert,
And springs of water into parched ground;
34 A fruitful land into a salt-marsh,
Because of the wickedness of those who dwelt therein.
35 He turned a desert into pools of water,
And dry land into springs of water;
36 And he settled the hungry there,
So that they established an inhabited town.

37 They sowed fields and planted vineyards,
Which yielded fruits for harvest.
38 Then he blessed them and they multiplied greatly,
And he suffered not their cattle to decrease.
39 When they themselves decreased and were brought low,
Through oppression, adversity, and sorrow,
40 He poured contempt upon the princes,
And made them wander in the trackless waste.
41 But he exalted the needy above affliction,
And made his families like a flock.

42 Let the righteous see and rejoice,
And all wickedness shut its mouth.
43 Whoso is wise, let him heed such things,
And consider the gracious acts of the *Lord*.

108

A PRAYER FOR GOD'S HELP

[A SONG; A PSALM OF DAVID]

MY HEART is steadfast, O God;
I will sing and play.
2 Awake, then, my glory!
Awake, lute and lyre!
I will awaken the dawn!
3 I will praise thee among the peoples, O *Lord*,
I will play to thee among the nations.
4 For thy grace is great even unto the heavens,
And thy faithfulness extends to the skies.
5 Arise above the heavens, O God!
Let thy glory be over all the earth!

6 That thy loved ones may be rescued,
Give victory by thy right hand and answer us!
7 God has spoken in his sanctuary:
"I will exult; I will divide Shechem;
And measure off the valley of Succoth.
8 Gilead is mine; Manasseh is mine;
Ephraim is the defense of my head;
Judah is my scepter.
9 Moab is my washbowl;
Upon Edom I cast my sandal;
Over Philistia I raise the shout of victory.
10 Who will bring me to the fortified city?
Who will lead me to Edom?"

11 Hast thou not rejected us, O God?
And thou goest not forth with our armies, O God!

12 Give us aid against the foe;
For futile is the help of man.
13 Through God we shall do valiantly;
For he will tread down our foes.

109

A MALEDICTION

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: OF DAVID; A PSALM]

GOD whom I praise, be not silent!
2 For they have opened wicked and deceitful mouths against me.
They talk about me with a lying tongue,
3 With malicious words do they encircle me,
And they attack me for no cause.
4 In return for my love, they are my enemies;
While I rescued them.
5 So they return me evil for good,
And hatred for my love.

6 Appoint thou a wicked man over him;
And may Satan stand at his right hand!
7 When he is put on trial may he come forth guilty;
And may his prayer become a sin!
8 May his days be few!
Let another take his office!
9 May his children be fatherless
And his wife a widow!
10 May his children wander about and beg;
And may they be expelled from their hovels!

11 May his creditor levy upon all that he has,
And may strangers plunder his earnings!

12 May there be none to show him kindness,
Nor any to pity his fatherless children!
13 May his posterity be cut off;
In the next generation may their name be blotted out!
14 May the guilt of his fathers be remembered of the *Lord;*
And may the sin of his mother not be blotted out!
15 May they be before the *Lord* continually;
And may the memory of them be cut off from the earth!

16 Because he remembered not to show kindness,
But pursued the poor man, the needy,
And the broken-hearted to kill him;
17 Because he loved cursing and it entered into him;
Because he disliked blessing and it remained far from him;
18 And because he clothed himself with cursing as with a garment,
And it entered into him like water,
And was like oil in his bones;
19 May it be unto him like a garment which enfolds him,
And a girdle that he always wears.
20 May this be the reward of my accusers from the *Lord*,
And of those who speak evil against me!

21 But thou, O *God*, my Lord,
Deal with me, for the sake of thy reputation!
Since thy grace is good, rescue me!
22 For I am weak and needy,
And my heart is dead within me!
23 Like a lengthening shadow I am passing away;
I am shaken off like a locust.
24 My knees give way from fasting;
My flesh is wasting away and unanointed with oil.

25 And I am become a taunt to them;
All that see me wag their heads.

26 Help me, O *Lord*, my God!
Deliver me in accordance with thy grace!
27 And let them know that this is thy hand;
That thou, O *Lord*, hast done it!
28 They may curse, but do thou bless!
Let my adversaries be ashamed, but thy servant rejoice!
29 May my accusers be clothed with dishonor;
May they wrap themselves in their shame as a robe.
30 I will thank the *Lord* much with my mouth;
And in the midst of many I will praise him.
31 For he stands at the right hand of the poor,
To save him from those who would condemn him.

110

A PROMISE OF GOD'S AID TO THE KING

[OF DAVID; A PSALM]

AN ORACLE of the *Lord* to my lord:
"Sit at my right hand,
Till I make your enemies your footstool."
2 The scepter of your strength the *Lord* sends forth from Zion.
Reign in the midst of your enemies.
3 Your people will volunteer freely in your day of war.
In holy array, from the womb of dawn,
The dew of your youth is yours.

4 The *Lord* has sworn and he will not retract:
"You shall be a priest for life,
A Melchizedek, because of me."

5 The Lord is at your right hand.
He has shattered kings in the day of his wrath.
6 He will sit in judgment upon the nations; he will fill the valleys.
He has shattered the chief over a broad land.
7 From a brook by the wayside he will drink;
Therefore he will lift up his head.

111

THE WONDERFUL WORKS OF GOD

HALLELUJAH!

א

I give thanks to the *Lord* with all my heart.

ב

In the council of the upright and in the assembly.

ג

2 Great are the works of the *Lord*,

ד

To be studied by all who delight in them.

ה

3 Majestic and glorious is his work.

ו

And his righteousness stands fast forever.

ז

4 He has made his wonders an enduring memory.

ח

Gracious and merciful is the *Lord*.

ט

5 He provided nourishment for those who fear him.

י

He remembers his covenant forever.

כ

6 His powerful deeds he has made known to his people,

ל

In giving them possession of the nations.

מ

7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice;

נ

Trustworthy are all his precepts;

ס

8 Sure are they forever and ever;

ע

Done in faithfulness and uprightness.

פ

9 He has sent forth release for his people.

צ

His covenant he has ordained forever.

ק

Holy and terrible is his name.

ר

10 The beginning of wisdom is reverence for the *Lord;*

ש

It is good judgment in all who practice it.

ת

His praise stands fast forever.

112

THE LOT OF THE PIOUS

HALLELUJAH!

א

Oh, the happiness of the man who reverences the *Lord*,

ב

Who greatly delights in his commandments!

ג

2 His posterity will be mighty in the land;

ד

The generation of the upright will be blessed.

ה

3 Prosperity and riches will be in his house,

ו

And his righteousness will endure forever.

ז

4 Unto the upright he arises as a light in the darkness,

ח

Gracious, merciful, and righteous.

ט

5 It is well with the man who is a gracious lender,

י

Who conducts his business with justice;

כ

6 For he will never be shaken.

ל

The righteous man will be an abiding memory.

מ

7 He will not be frightened by evil tidings,

נ

His heart is firm, trusting in the *Lord*,

ס

8 His heart is supported, he will not be afraid,

ע

Until he gaze upon his foes.

פ

9 He has scattered abroad; he has given to the needy;

צ

His righteousness will endure forever.

ק

His horn will be exalted in honor.

ר

10 The wicked will see and be vexed.

ש

He will gnash his teeth and melt away.

ת

The desire of the wicked will perish.

113

THE GENEROUS DEEDS OF GOD

HALLELUJAH!
Praise, O servants of the *Lord;*
Praise the name of the *Lord!*
2 Blessed be the name of the *Lord*,
From henceforth even forever.
3 From the rising of the sun unto its setting,
Let the *Lord's* name be praised.

4 High above all nations is the *Lord*,
Above the heavens is his glory.

5 Who is like the *Lord*, our God,
Seated on high,
6 Seeing far below,
In the heavens and on earth?

7 He lifts up the poor from the dust;
He raises the needy from the refuse heap,
8 To make them sit with princes,
With the princes of his people.
9 He makes the childless woman abide in the household
As the happy mother of its children.
Hallelujah!

114

THE WONDERS OF THE EXODUS

WHEN Israel went forth from Egypt,
The house of Jacob from a people of alien speech,
2 Judah became his sanctuary,
Israel his domain.

3 The sea saw it and fled;
The Jordan turned back;
4 The mountains skipped like rams,
The hills like lambs.

5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled?
Jordan, that you turned back?
6 Mountains, that you skipped like rams?
Hills, like lambs?

7 Tremble, O earth, before the Lord,
Before the God of Jacob;
8 Who turned the rock into a pool of water,
The flint into a fountain of water.

115

GOD AND THE IDOLS

NOT unto us, O *Lord*, not unto us,
But to thy name, give honor;
Because of thy grace, because of thy faithfulness!
2 Wherefore should the nations say,
"Where, now, is their God?"
3 Verily, our God is in the heavens;
He does whatever he pleases.

4 Their idols are but silver and gold,
The products of men's hands.
5 They have mouths, but cannot speak;
Eyes have they, but they cannot see;
6 They have ears, but they cannot hear;
Noses have they, but they cannot smell;
7 They have hands, but they cannot handle;
Feet have they, but they cannot walk;
Nor can they make a sound in their throat.
8 Those who make them will become just like them,
Everyone who trusts in them.

9 O Israel, trust in the *Lord!*
He is their help and their shield.
10 O house of Aaron, trust in the *Lord!*
He is their help and their shield.
11 You who reverence the *Lord*, trust in the *Lord!*
He is their help and their shield.

12 The *Lord* has remembered us; he will bless,
He will bless the house of Israel;
He will bless the house of Aaron;

13 He will bless those who reverence the *Lord*,
Both small and great.

14 May the *Lord* give you increase,
Both you and your children.
15 Blessed be you of the *Lord*,
Who made heaven and earth.
16 The heavens are the heavens of the *Lord*,
But the earth has he given to mankind.

17 The dead will not praise the *Lord*,
Nor any who go down into silence.
18 But we, we will bless the *Lord*,
From this time forth and forever.
Hallelujah!

116

A SONG OF THANKSGIVING

I LOVE the *Lord*, because he hears
The voice of my supplication,
2 Because he inclines his ear to me;
And I will call upon him as long as I live.

3 The cords of death encircled me;
And the tortures of Sheol found me;
I found trouble and sorrow;
4 But I called upon the name of the *Lord*,
"O *Lord*, deliver me!"

5 Gracious is the *Lord* and righteous;
And our God is merciful.
6 The *Lord* guards the simple.
When I am brought low, he delivers me.

7 Return to your rest, O my heart,
For the *Lord* has dealt well with you;
8 For thou hast delivered me from death,
My eyes from tears,
And my foot from stumbling.

9 I shall walk before the *Lord*
In the lands of the living.
10 I believe what I say;
I am fully responsible for it;
11 I say in my distress,
"All mankind is unreliable."

12 How can I repay the *Lord*
All his benefits to me?
13 I take the cup of deliverance,
And I call upon the name of the *Lord*.

14 I will pay my vows to the *Lord*,
In the very presence of all his people.
15 Precious in the eyes of the *Lord*
Is the death of his saints.

16 Ah, *Lord*, because I am thy servant,
I am thy servant, the son of thy handmaid,
Thou hast loosened my bonds.
17 I will offer to thee the thank-offering,
And I call upon the name of the *Lord*.

18 My vows to the *Lord* I will pay,
In the very presence of all his people;
19 In the courts of the house of the *Lord*,
In the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

117

A SHOUT OF PRAISE

PRAISE the *Lord*, all nations;
Laud him, all peoples;
2 For his grace is mighty over us;
And the faithfulness of the *Lord* is forever.
Hallelujah!

118

EVERLASTING GRACE

GIVE thanks to the *Lord;* for he is good,
For his grace is everlasting.
2 Let Israel now say,
That his grace is everlasting.
3 Let the house of Aaron now say,
That his grace is everlasting.
4 Let those that reverence the *Lord* now say,
That his grace is everlasting.

5 When in straits, I called upon the *Lord;*
He answered me with abundant room.
6 With the *Lord* for me, I do not fear
What man may do to me.
7 With the *Lord* for me as my helper,
I shall gaze in triumph on those who hate me.
8 It is better to seek refuge in the *Lord*
Than to trust in man.
9 It is better to seek refuge in the *Lord*
Than to trust in princes.

10 Though all nations surround me,
In the name of the *Lord* I will destroy them.

11 Though they encompass, yea, surround me,
In the name of the *Lord* I will destroy them.
12 Though they surround me like bees,
Though they burn like a fire of thorns,
In the name of the *Lord* I will destroy them.

13 I was sore beset, about to fall,
But the *Lord* helped me.
14 The *Lord* is my strength and song,
And he is become my deliverance.
15 Hark, the joyous shout of triumph among the tents of the righteous!
The right hand of the *Lord* works victoriously.
16 The right hand of the *Lord* is exalted.
The right hand of the *Lord* works victoriously.

17 I shall not die, but live
To tell of the deeds of the *Lord*.
18 The *Lord* has disciplined me severely;
But he has not given me up to death.

19 Open for me the gates of victory,
That I may enter through them to give thanks to the *Lord*.
20 This is the gate of the *Lord*.
Through which the victors may enter.

21 I thank thee that thou hast answered me,
And hast become my deliverance.
22 The stone that the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.

23 From the *Lord* has this come,
It is wonderful in our eyes.

24 This is the day that the *Lord* has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad therein!

25 O *Lord*, deliver, I pray;
O *Lord*, give success, I pray!
26 Blessed be he who enters in the name of the *Lord;*
We will bless you from the house of the *Lord!*

27 The *Lord* is God and he has given us light.
Arrange the festal dance with branches,
Up to the horns of the altar.
28 Thou art my God, and I thank thee;
My God, I exalt thee.

29 Give thanks to the *Lord*, for he is good,
For his grace is everlasting.

119

THE LAW OF THE LORD

ℵ

HOW happy are they whose way is blameless,
Who walk in the law of the *Lord!*
2 How happy are they who keep his commands,
Who seek him with the whole heart!
3 Surely they do no wrong,
But they walk in his ways.
4 Thou hast ordered thy precepts
That we should keep them diligently.
5 O that my ways were firmly set
To keep thy precepts!
6 Then I should not be put to shame
When I look upon all thy commandments.

7 I thank thee with a right heart
When I learn thy righteous judgments.
8 I will observe thy precepts;
Do not wholly abandon me!

ב

9 How can a young man keep his path pure?
By heeding thy word.
10 I seek thee with my whole heart;
Let me not wander from thy commandments!
11 I have stored thy message in my heart,
That I may not sin against thee.
12 Blessed be thou, O *Lord;*
Teach me thy statutes!
13 With my lips I recount
All the judgments of thy mouth.
14 In the way of thy commands I delight,
As much as in all wealth.
15 I meditate upon thy precepts,
And I seek after thy paths.
16 I find joy in thy statutes;
I will not forget thy word.

ג

17 Deal generously with thy servant, that I may live,
And may keep thy word.
18 Unveil my eyes, that I may behold
Wonderful things out of thy law.
19 I am but a guest in the land;
Hide not thy commandments from me!
20 I study with eagerness
Upon thy commandments all the time.
21 Thou dost rebuke the arrogant, the accursed,
Who go astray from thy commandments.

22 Take away from me disgrace and scorn,
For I have kept thy commands.
23 Though princes sit and talk with me,
Thy servant meditates upon thy statutes.
24 Thy commands are my delight,
They are my counselors.

ד

25 My spirits cling to the dust;
Revive me according to thy word.
26 I have told of my ways and thou didst answer me;
Teach me thy statutes.
27 Make me understand the way of thy precepts,
That I may meditate upon thy wonders.
28 I shed tears because of sorrow;
Raise me up according to thy word.
29 False ways put far from me;
And graciously grant me thy law.
30 I have chosen the way of trustworthiness,
Thy judgments I crave.
31 I have clung to thy commands;
O *Lord*, put me not to shame!
32 I run in the way of thy commandments,
For thou dost enlarge my heart.

ה

33 Teach me, O *Lord*, the way of thy statutes,
That I may keep it to the end.
34 Make me to understand, that I may keep thy law,
And observe it with my whole heart.
35 Let me walk in the path of thy commandments;
For therein do I delight.
36 Incline my heart toward thy commands,
And not toward profits.

37 Turn my eyes away from looking upon unreality;
Revive me in thy way.
38 Establish thy promise for thy servant,
Which is for those who revere thee.
39 Turn away from me the disgrace which I fear;
For thy judgments are good.
40 Lo, I have longed for thy precepts;
Revive me through thy righteousness.

ו

41 May thy gracious deeds come to me, O *Lord*,
Thy deliverance according to thy promise;
42 That I may answer those who insult me;
For I have trusted in thy word.
43 Do not snatch the word of truth utterly out of my mouth;
For I have waited for thy judgment,
44 That I may observe thy law continually,
Forever and ever.
45 May I walk at large,
Because I have sought thy precepts.
46 I will speak of thy commands in the presence of kings,
And I shall not be put to shame.
47 I delight myself in thy commandments
Which I love.
48 I raise my hands to thy commandments which I love;
And I meditate upon thy statutes.

ז

49 Remember the word to thy servant,
Upon which thou hast led me to hope.
50 This is my comfort in my trouble,
That thy promise revives me.

51 The arrogant have scoffed at me bitterly,
But I have not turned away from thy law.
52 I remember thy judgments from of old, O *Lord*,
And am comforted.
53 Burning rage lays hold of me because of the wicked,
Who abandon thy law.
54 Thy statutes are my songs of praise,
In my house of pilgrimage.
55 I remember thy name in the night, O *Lord*,
And I observe thy law.
56 This is mine,
That I keep thy precepts.

ח

57 The *Lord* is my portion;
I have said that I would observe thy words.
58 I beseech thee with my whole heart:
Be gracious to me according to thy promise.
59 I have considered my ways,
And turned my feet toward thy commands.
60 I have hasted, and not delayed
In the observance of thy commandments.
61 The cords of the wicked have encircled me,
But I have not forgotten thy law.
62 At midnight I rise up to give thee thanks,
Because of thy righteous judgments.
63 I am the companion of all who revere thee,
And observe thy precepts.
64 The earth is full of thy grace, O *Lord;*
Teach me thy statutes.

ט

65 Thou hast treated thy servant well,
O *Lord*, according to thy word.

66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge,
For I have trusted in thy commandments.
67 Before I was afflicted, I went astray;
But now I keep thy sayings.
68 Thou art good, and doest good;
Teach me thy statutes.
69 The arrogant have told lies about me;
But I keep thy precepts with all my heart.
70 Their heart is gross, like fat;
But I delight in thy law.
71 It is good for me that I was afflicted,
That I might learn thy statutes.
72 The law of thy mouth is worth more to me
Than thousands in gold and silver.

ל

73 Thy hands made me and fashioned me;
Give me understanding that I may learn thy commandments.
74 May they who revere thee see me and rejoice,
Because I wait upon thy word.
75 I know, O *Lord*, that thy judgments are right,
And that in good faith thou hast afflicted me;
76 But now let thy grace comfort me,
According to thy promise to thy servant.
77 Let thy mercies come to me that I may live;
For my delight is in thy law.
78 Let the arrogant be put to shame, for they have falsely traduced me;
But I will meditate upon thy precepts.
79 Let those who revere thee turn to me,
And those who know thy commands!

80 Let my heart be blameless in thy statutes,
That I be not put to shame.

כ

81 I pine for thy deliverance;
I wait for thy word.
82 My eyes fail for thy promise,
Saying, "How long till thou comfort me?"
83 Though I have become like a wine skin in the smoke,
I have not forgotten thy statutes.
84 How many are thy servant's days?
How long till thou execute judgment upon my pursuers?
85 Pits have been dug for me by the arrogant,
Who are not in accord with thy law.
86 All thy commandments are sure.
They persecute me on false charges; help me!
87 They have nearly destroyed me in the land;
But I have not forsaken thy precepts.
88 In accordance with thy grace revive me,
That I may observe the commands of thy mouth.

ל

89 Forever, O *Lord*,
Thy word stands fast in the heavens.
90 Thy faithfulness is for generation after generation;
Thou didst establish the earth and it stood fast.
91 By thy judgments they stand today;
For all things are thy servants.
92 Had not thy law been my delight,
Then I had perished in my affliction.
93 I shall never forget thy precepts;
For by them thou didst keep me alive.

94 I am thine, save me;
For I have sought after thy precepts!
95 The wicked lie in wait to ruin me;
I consider thy commands.
96 I have seen a limit to all perfection;
Thy commandment is exceedingly broad.

מ

97 Oh, how I love thy law!
It is my meditation all day long.
98 Thy commandment makes me wiser than my foes;
For it is always mine.
99 I am wiser than all my teachers;
For thy commands are my meditation.
100 I have more discretion than the aged;
For I have kept thy precepts.
101 I have withheld my feet from every wicked path,
That I might observe thy word.
102 I have not turned aside from thy judgments;
For thou thyself hast taught me.
103 How sweet are thy promises to my palate,
Sweeter than honey to my mouth!
104 From thy precepts I get discretion;
Therefore I hate every false way.

נ

105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet,
And a light on my path.
106 I have sworn, and I will perform it,
To observe thy righteous judgments.
107 I am sorely afflicted;
O *Lord*, revive me in accordance with thy word.

108 Accept, now, O *Lord*, the voluntary offerings of my mouth,
And teach me thy judgments.
109 I carry my life in my hand continually,
But I have not forgotten thy law.
110 The wicked set a trap for me,
But I have not strayed from thy precepts.
111 I have thy commands as a heritage forever;
For they are the joy of my heart.
112 I incline my heart to execute thy statutes,
Henceforth forever.

ס

113 I hate dissemblers;
But I love thy law.
114 Thou art my shelter and my shield;
I wait for thy word.
115 Depart from me, O doers of evil,
That I may keep the commandments of my God.
116 Sustain me according to thy promise that I may live;
And make me not ashamed of my hope.
117 Strengthen me that I may be delivered;
And let me constantly contemplate thy statutes.
118 Thou dost despise all who swerve from thy statutes,
For their deceit is useless.
119 Like dross, thou puttest an end to all the wicked of the earth;
Therefore I love thy commands.
120 My flesh creeps in awe of thee,
And I am afraid of thy judgments.

ע

121 I have done what is just and right;
Leave me not to my oppressors.

122 Pledge me thy word for good;
Let not the arrogant oppress me.
123 My eyes fail with longing for thy deliverance,
And for thy righteous promise.
124 Deal with thy servant according to thy grace;
And teach me thy decrees.
125 I am thy servant; give me understanding,
That I may know thy commands.
126 It is time for the *Lord* to act;
They have broken thy law.
127 Therefore I love thy commandments,
More than gold or beaten gold.
128 Therefore I declare all thy precepts to be right;
I hate every false path.

פ

129 Thy commandments are wonderful;
Therefore will I keep them.
130 The exposition of thy words gives light,
Giving understanding to the open-hearted.
131 I have opened wide my mouth and panted;
For I long for thy commandments.
132 Turn toward me and be gracious to me,
As is the right of those who love thy name.
133 Establish my footsteps by thy saying,
And let no wrong have power over me.
134 Free me from man's oppression,
That I may observe thy precepts.
135 Let thy face beam upon thy servant,
And teach me thy decrees.
136 With streams of water my eyes run down,
Over those who have not kept thy law.

צ

137 Thou art righteous, O *Lord*,
And thy judgment is right.
138 Thou hast issued thy commands in righteousness,
And in exceeding faithfulness.
139 My zeal consumes me,
Because my foes forget thy words.
140 Thy promise has been tried to the utmost,
And thy servant loves it.
141 Little am I, and insignificant,
But I have not forgotten thy precepts.
142 Thy righteousness is right forever;
And thy law is truth.
143 Trouble and anguish befall me;
But thy commandments are my delight.
144 Thy commands are eternally right;
Give me understanding that I may live.

ק

145 I call with all my heart; answer me, O *Lord!*
I will keep thy decrees.
146 I call upon thee; deliver me,
That I may keep thy commands.
147 I arise at dawn, and call for help;
I wait for thy word.
148 My eyes anticipate the night-watches,
In meditation upon thy promise.
149 Hear my voice according to thy grace;
O *Lord*, revive me, according to thy justice.
150 My pursuers are in close touch with malice;
But they are far from thy law.
151 Thou art near, O *Lord;*
And all thy commandments are true.

152 Long ago I knew from thy commands,
That thou hadst founded them forever.

ר

153 Behold my affliction, and rescue me;
For I have not forgotten thy law!
154 Plead thou my case, and avenge me;
Revive me in accordance with thy promise.
155 Deliverance is far from the wicked;
For they have not sought thy statutes.
156 Thy mercies are many, O *Lord;*
Revive me according to thy justice.
157 Many are my pursuers and my foes,
But I have not turned away from thy commands.
158 I see apostates and loathe them,
Because they do not keep thy word.
159 See how I love thy precepts!
O *Lord*, revive me according to thy grace.
160 The sum of thy word is truth;
And all thy righteous judgments are forever.

ש

161 Princes persecute me without cause;
But my heart is in awe of thy word.
162 I delight in thy promise,
Like one who finds abundant spoil.
163 Falsehood I hate and loathe;
Thy law do I love.
164 Seven times daily I praise thee,
Because of thy righteous judgments.
165 Great prosperity have they who love thy law,
And no obstacles confront them.

166 I hope for thy deliverance, O *Lord*,
And I do thy commandments.
167 I keep thy commands,
And I love them dearly.
168 I observe thy precepts and thy commands;
For all my ways are before thee.

ח

169 Let my cry come before thee, O *Lord;*
Give me understanding according to thy word.
170 Let my entreaty come before thee;
Rescue me according to thy promise.
171 Let my lips speak forth praise,
Because thou dost teach me thy statutes.
172 May my tongue sing of thy word,
For all thy commandments are right.
173 May thy hand come to my help,
For I have chosen thy precepts.
174 I long for thy deliverance, O *Lord*,
And thy law is my delight.
175 May I live to praise thee,
And may thy justice help me.
176 I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant;
For I have not forgotten thy commandments.

120

A WARNING TO LIARS

[THE SONGS OF ASCENTS]

TO THE *Lord* in my distress
I call, and he answers me.
2 O *Lord*, deliver me from lying lips,
From the deceitful tongue.

3 What will he give you, and what more,
O deceitful tongue?
4 The sharpened arrows of the warrior,
With live broom coals!

5 Alas that I sojourn in Meshech,
That I dwell with the clans of Kedar!
6 Too long a time have I dwelt
with the haters of peace.
7 I am for peace, but when I speak
they are for war!

121

THE GUARDIAN GOD

[A SONG FOR THE ASCENTS]

I RAISE my eyes to the hills;
Whence does my help come?
2 My help is from the *Lord*,
Who made the heavens and earth.

3 He will not let your foot slip,
your guardian will not slumber.
4 He will neither slumber, nor sleep,
that guards Israel.

5 The *Lord* is your guardian;
The *Lord* is your shade upon your right hand.
6 By day the sun will not smite you,
nor the moon by night.

7 The *Lord* will guard you from all evil;
the *Lord* will guard your life.
8 The *Lord* will guard your goings and comings
henceforth and forever.

122

A PRAYER FOR JERUSALEM

[THE SONGS OF ASCENTS. OF DAVID]

I WAS glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the *Lord*."
2 Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem;
3 Jerusalem that is rebuilt like a city,
with which, moreover, the law of Israel is united;
4 Whither the tribes go up,
the tribes of the *Lord*,
To give thanks to the name of the *Lord;*
5 For there were set thrones of judgment,
The thrones of the house of David.

6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem;
They will prosper who love you.
7 Peace be within your walls,
Tranquillity in your palaces!
8 For the sake of my brothers and my friends,
I will say, "Peace be with you!"
9 For the sake of the house of the *Lord*, our God,
I will seek your good.

123

A SONG OF SIGHS

[THE SONGS OF ASCENTS]

UNTO thee I raise my eyes,
O thou, who dwellest in the heavens!
2 Lo, as the eyes of slaves are to the hand of their master,
As the eyes of a maid are to the hand of her mistress,
So our eyes are toward the *Lord*, our God,
Till he take pity upon us.

3 Have pity on us, O *Lord*, have pity on us!
For we are abundantly sated with contempt.
4 We are abundantly sated with it,
With the scorn of the arrogant,
The contempt of the insolent.

124

A SONG OF GRATITUDE

[THE SONGS OF ASCENTS. OF DAVID]

HAD it not been the *Lord* who was on our side,"
Let Israel say,
2 "Had it not been the *Lord* who was on our side,
When men rose up against us,
3 Then had they swallowed us up alive,
When their anger blazed forth against us;
4 Then had the waters swept us away,
The torrent had gone over us;
5 Then had gone over us
The seething waters."

6 Blessed be the *Lord*,
Who did not yield us a prey to their teeth.
7 We are like a bird escaped from the fowler's snare;
The snare is broken and we have escaped.
8 Our help is in the name of the *Lord*,
Who made the heavens and the earth.

125

UNSHAKABLE FAITH

[THE SONGS OF ASCENTS]

THEY who trust in the *Lord*
Are like Mount Zion which cannot be moved,
But abides forever.
2 Even as the mountains encircle Jerusalem,
So the *Lord* encircles his people,
From henceforth and forever.

3 For the wicked scepter will not rest upon the lot of the righteous,
That the righteous may not put forth their hands unto wrong.
4 Do good, O *Lord*, to the good,
And to them that are upright in heart.
5 But those who make their ways crooked—
May the *Lord* make them go with malefactors!
Peace be upon Israel!

126

SHOUTS OF JOY

[THE SONGS OF ASCENTS]

WHEN the *Lord* brings back captive Zion
We shall be comforted!
2 Then will our mouth be filled with laughter,
And our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then will they say among the nations,
"The *Lord* has done great things for them."
3 The *Lord* has done great things for us;
We are glad.

4 Turn our captivity, O *Lord*,
Like torrents in the southland.
5 May those who sow in tears
Reap with shouts of joy!
6 He who goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing,
Will indeed come back with joyful shouts, bearing his sheaves.

127

THE SUSTAINING GOD

[THE SONGS OF ASCENTS. OF SOLOMON]

UNLESS the *Lord* build the house,
Its builders toil thereon in vain.
Unless the *Lord* keep the city,
The watchman keeps awake in vain.
2 In vain do you rise up early,
And stay up late,
And eat hard-earned bread;
So he gives his loved ones sleep.

3 Lo, children are a heritage from the *Lord;*
The fruit of the womb is a reward.
4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,
So are the children of one's youth.
5 How happy is the man whose quiver is filled with them!
They will not be put to shame when they speak with
their enemies in the gate.

128

THE TRULY HAPPY MAN

[THE SONGS OF ASCENTS]

HOW happy is everyone who reveres the *Lord*,
Who walks in his ways!
2 Of the toil of your hands you shall eat;
Happy and prosperous shall you be!

3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine,
In the interior of your house;
Your children like young olive-trees,
Around your table.
4 For lo, thus shall the man be blessed,
Who reveres the *Lord*.

5 The *Lord* bless you from Zion!
And may you look upon the welfare of Jerusalem
All the days of your life!
6 And may you look upon your children's children!
Peace be upon Israel!

129

THE FLEETING FORTUNE OF THE WICKED

[THE SONGS OF ASCENTS]

GROSSLY have they abused me from my youth up,"
May Israel, indeed, say;
2 "Grossly have they abused me from my youth up,
But they have not prevailed against me.
3 The plowers plowed upon my back,
They made their furrows long,"
4 But the *Lord* is righteous;
He has cut the cords of the wicked.

5 They are put to shame and turned back,
All who hate Zion.
6 They will be like the grass on the roofs,
That withers before it is plucked,
7 With which the reaper does not fill his hands,
Nor the binder of sheaves his bosom.
8 Those passing by will not say to them,
"The blessing of the *Lord* be upon you;
We bless you in the name of the *Lord!*"

130

DE PROFUNDIS

[THE SONGS OF ASCENTS]

OUT of the depths I cry to thee, O *Lord!*
O *Lord*, hear my voice!
Let thine ears be attentive
To my supplicating voice.

3 If thou, O *Lord*, shouldst record iniquities,
O *Lord*, who could stand?
4 But with thee there is forgiveness,
That thou mayst be revered.

5 I wait for the *Lord*, my whole being waits,
And for his word I hope.
6 I wait for the *Lord*,
More than watchmen for the dawn,
Watchmen for the dawn.

7 Hope, O Israel, in the *Lord*,
For with the *Lord* is grace,
And with him is plenteous redemption.
For he will redeem Israel
From all its guilt.

131

A PATIENT SAINT

[THE SONGS OF ASCENTS. OF DAVID]

MY HEART is not proud, O *Lord*,
Nor are my eyes lofty;
Nor do I deal with things
Too great and too wonderful for me.

2 I have certainly calmed and stilled my spirit,
Like a weaned child with its mother;
My spirit is with me like a weaned child.
3 Wait, O Israel, for the *Lord*,
From henceforth and forever!

132

THE ANCIENT PROMISE

[THE SONGS OF ASCENTS]

REMEMBER, O *Lord*, for David's sake,
All his affliction:
2 How he swore to the *Lord*,
And vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob:
3 "I will not enter my dwelling-house,
Nor will I mount my bed to lie down,
4 Nor permit sleep to mine eyes,
Nor slumber to mine eyelids,
5 Until I find a place for the *Lord*,
A dwelling for the Mighty One of Jacob."

6 Lo, we heard of it in Ephrathah;
We found it in the fields of Jaar.
7 Let us go to his dwelling,
Let us worship at his footstool.
8 Arise, O *Lord*, to thy resting-place,
Thou and the ark of thy strength.
9 Let thy priests robe themselves in righteousness,
And thy saints shout with joy.
10 Because of David, thy servant,
Turn not away the face of thine anointed.

11 The *Lord* swore to David
An inviolable oath from which he will not swerve:
"Of the fruit of your body,
I will establish a dynasty for you.

12 If your sons keep my covenant,
And my commands which I teach them,
Then their sons, forever,
Shall sit upon your throne."
13 For the *Lord* has chosen Zion;
He has desired it for his dwelling-place:

14 "This is my resting-place forever;
Here will I dwell, for I desired it.
15 I will richly bless its food supply,
Its needy I will satisfy with bread.
16 Its priests will I clothe with salvation,
And its saints shall shout aloud with joy.
17 There will I cause a horn to spring forth for David;
I will set in order a lamp for mine anointed,
18 His enemies I will clothe with shame;
But upon him his diadem shall shine."

133

ZION'S PERPETUAL BLESSING

[THE SONGS OF ASCENTS. OF DAVID]

LO, HOW good and lovely it is
When brethren dwell together as one.
2 Like the goodly oil upon the head,
Which flows down upon the beard, Aaron's beard,
That flows down upon the edge of his robes,
3 So is the dew of Hermon that flows down upon the mountains of Zion;
For there has the *Lord* commanded the blessing:
Life for evermore.

134

A CALL TO WORSHIP

[THE SONGS OF ASCENTS]

LO, BLESS the *Lord*, all you servants of the *Lord*,
Who stand in the house of the *Lord* by night!
2 Lift up your hands toward the sanctuary,
And bless the *Lord!*

3 May the *Lord*, maker of the heavens and the earth,
Bless you from Zion.

135

A SONG OF PRAISE

HALLELUJAH!
Praise the name of the *Lord!*
Praise him, O you servants of the *Lord*,
2 Who stand in the house of the *Lord*,
In the courts of the house of our God!
3 Praise the *Lord*, for the *Lord* is good!
Sing praises to his name, for he is praiseworthy.
4 For the *Lord* has chosen Jacob as his own,
And Israel as his own treasure.
5 I know, indeed, that the *Lord*,
And our Lord, is greater than all the gods.
6 The *Lord* does whatsoever he pleases,
Whether in the heavens or on earth,
In the seas and in all deeps;
7 Raising clouds from the ends of the earth.
He makes the lightning flashes for the rain,
Bringing forth the wind from his treasuries.

8 It was he who smote the first-born of Egypt,
Both of man and beast.
9 He sent forth wonders and portents
Into the midst of thee, O Egypt,
Upon Pharaoh and upon all his servants!
10 It was he who smote many nations,
And slew mighty kings,
11 Sihon, the king of the Amorites,
Og, the king of Bashan,
And all the kingdoms of Canaan.
12 And he gave their land as a possession,
A possession of his people Israel.
13 O *Lord*, thy name is forever;
O *Lord*, thy memorial is for all generations.
14 For the *Lord* will give his people justice,
And will have compassion upon his servants.

15 The idols of the nations are but silver and gold,
The product of men's hands.
16 They have a mouth, but cannot talk;
Eyes have they, but cannot see;
17 Ears have they, but cannot hear;
Neither, indeed, is there any breath in their mouth.
18 Those who make them will become like them,
Everyone that trusts in them.

19 O house of Israel, bless the *Lord;*
O house of Aaron, bless the *Lord;*
20 O house of the Levites, bless the *Lord;*
You who revere the *Lord*, bless the *Lord!*
21 Blessed be the *Lord* from Zion,
Who dwells at Jerusalem!
Hallelujah!

136

THE GRACE OF GOD

GIVE thanks to the *Lord;* for he is good;
For his grace is everlasting.
2 Give thanks to the God of gods;
For his grace is everlasting.
3 Give thanks to the Lord of lords;
For his grace is everlasting:
4 To him who did great wonders alone:
For his grace is everlasting:
5 To him who made the heavens with skill;
For his grace is everlasting:
6 To him who spread out the earth upon the waters;
For his grace is everlasting:
7 To him who made the great lights;
For his grace is everlasting:
8 The sun to rule by day;
For his grace is everlasting:
9 The moon and the stars to rule by night;
For his grace is everlasting:
10 To him who smote the Egyptians in their first-born;
For his grace is everlasting:
11 And brought forth Israel from the midst of them;
For his grace is everlasting:
12 With a strong hand and an outstretched arm;
For his grace is everlasting:
13 To him who divided the Sea of Sedge into two parts;
For his grace is everlasting:
14 And led Israel over through the midst of it;
For his grace is everlasting:
15 And shook Pharaoh and his army into the Sea of Sedge;
For his grace is everlasting:

16 To him who led his people through the wilderness;
For his grace is everlasting:
17 To him who smote great kings;
For his grace is everlasting:
18 And slew mighty kings;
For his grace is everlasting:
19 Sihon, the king of the Amorites,
For his grace is everlasting:
20 And Og, the king of Bashan;
For his grace is everlasting:
21 And gave their land as a possession;
For his grace is everlasting:
22 A possession to Israel, his servant;
For his grace is everlasting:
23 Who remembered us in our abasement;
For his grace is everlasting:
24 And rescued us from our foes;
For his grace is everlasting:
25 Who gives food to all flesh;
For his grace is everlasting.
26 Give thanks to the God of the heavens;
For his grace is everlasting.

137

REVENGE UPON ISRAEL'S FOES

BY THE rivers of Babylon,
There we sat down, and wept, indeed,
When we remembered Zion.
2 Upon the poplars, in the midst of her,
We hung up our harps.
3 For there our captors
Demanded of us songs,

And our tormentors, mirth:
"Sing us some of the songs of Zion."

4 How could we sing the songs of the *Lord*
In a foreign land?
5 If I forget thee, O Jerusalem,
May my right hand fail me!
6 May my tongue cleave to my palate,
If I do not remember thee;
If I set not Jerusalem
Above my highest joy!

7 Remember, O *Lord*, against the Edomites,
The day of Jerusalem!
They who said, "Raze it, raze it,
To its very foundations!"

8 O daughter of Babylon, destructive one,
Blessed be he who requites to you
The treatment that you dealt out to us!
9 Blessed be he who seizes your little ones,
And dashes them to pieces upon a rock!

138

THE HELP OF GOD

[OF DAVID]

I GIVE thee thanks with all my heart.
In the presence of the gods, I sing praises to thee!
2 I prostrate myself toward thy holy temple;
And give thanks to thy name for thy grace and thy faithfulness.
For thou hast magnified thy name over all.

3 In the day when I called thou didst answer me;
Thou didst increase thy power in me.

4 All the kings of the earth will give thanks to thee, O *Lord*,
When they have heard the words of thy mouth.
5 And they will sing of the ways of the *Lord*,
That the glory of the *Lord* is great.
6 The *Lord* looks upon the high and the low,
But the haughty he knows from afar.

7 Though I walk in the midst of hostility, thou dost preserve my life;
Against the wrath of my foes, thou dost stretch forth thy hand,
And thy right hand delivers me.
8 The *Lord* rewards me.
O *Lord*, thy grace is everlasting.
Forsake not the work of thine own hands!

139

THE OMNIPRESENT AND OMNISCIENT GOD

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: A PSALM OF DAVID]

THOU hast searched me and known me, O *Lord*.
2 Thou knowest when I sit down and when I stand up.
Thou discernest my thought from afar.
3 Thou dost measure out my course and my camp,
And art intimately acquainted with all my ways.
4 For there is not a word on my tongue,
But, *Lord*, thou knowest it all.

5 Thou dost enfold me behind and before,
And dost put thy hand upon me;
6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
It is too lofty—I am not equal to it.

7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit?
And whither shall I flee from thy presence?
8 If I ascend to the heavens, thou art there!
If I make Sheol my bed, thou art there also!
9 If I take up the wings of the dawn,
And dwell at the back of the sea,
10 Even there thy hand will guide me,
And thy right hand will hold me.
11 If I say, "Darkness will surely cover me,"
Then the night becomes light about me.
12 Darkness makes it not too dark for thee;
But the night is as bright as the day.
Darkness and light are both alike to thee.

13 For thou didst create my vitals,
Thou didst fashion me in my mother's womb.
14 I praise thee because thou art fearfully wonderful;
Wondrous are thy works,
And I myself know it well.
15 My bones were not hidden from thee,
When I was made in secret,
And molded in the lowest parts of the earth.
16 Thine eyes saw the sum total of my days,
And in thy book they were all written;
They were formed, when there was not one among them.
17 How precious are thy thoughts to me, O God!
How great the sum of them!

18 Were I to count them—they would outnumber the sands!
Were I to come to the end of them, my life-span must be like thine!

19 If thou wouldst but slay the wicked, O God,
And the men of blood would depart from me,
20 Who oppose thee in their thoughts,
Who utter thy name to a lie!
21 Do I not hate them that hate thee, O *Lord?*
And do I not loathe them who oppose thee?
22 With the deadliest hatred, I hate them;
They are my own enemies.
23 Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me, and know my thoughts;
24 And see if there be any false way in me;
And lead me in the ancient way.

140

A PRAYER FOR VINDICATION

[FOR THE DIRECTOR: A PSALM OF DAVID]

FREE me, O *Lord*, from wicked men!
Rescue me from violent men,
2 Who plan evil things in their heart,
Who constantly stir up wars!
3 They have a sharp tongue like a serpent;
The venom of adders is under their lips.

4 Keep me, O *Lord*, from the hand of the wicked;
Rescue me from violent men,
Who plan to trip my steps.

5 The arrogant have laid a snare for me, and lines;
They have spread a net for me by the wayside;
They have set traps for me. *Selah*

6 I say to the *Lord*, "Thou art my God;
Listen, O God, to my supplicating cry.
7 O *God*, the Lord, my strong deliverer,
Thou hast covered my head in the day of battle.
8 Grant not, O *Lord*, the desires of the wicked;
Let not his purpose succeed!" *Selah*

9 "Let not those who encompass me raise their heads;
May the mischief of their own lips cover them!
10 May coals of fire fall down upon them!
May they be cast into pits whence they cannot rise up again!
11 May the slanderer have no standing in the land!
May disaster pursue the violent man with blow upon blow!"

12 I know that the *Lord* will maintain
The cause of the wretched, the rights of the poor.
13 Certainly, the righteous will give thanks to thy name;
The upright will dwell in thy presence.

141

A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION

[A PSALM OF DAVID]

I CALL upon thee, O *Lord;* make haste to me;
Listen to my voice, when I call upon thee!
2 Let my prayer rise like incense before thee,
The lifting of my hands like the evening offering!
3 Set a guard, O *Lord*, over my mouth;
Keep watch at the door of my lips.

4 Incline not my heart to any evil thing.
To participate in wicked deeds,
With men who do wrong;
And let me not eat of their dainties.
5 If the righteous smite me—it is a favor,
And if he rebuke me—it is the finest oil;
Let not my head refuse it!
Indeed, my prayer is ever for them in trouble.
6 They will be hurled into the hands of their chieftains;
And they will learn that the word of the *Lord* is true.
7 Like a rock, split and crushed on the land,
Their bones will lie scattered at the jaws of Sheol.

8 But my eyes are toward thee, O Lord *God;*
In thee I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless!
9 Keep me from the hold of the snare which they have set for me,
And the traps of wrongdoers!
10 May the wicked fall into their own pits,
While I, indeed, pass by.

142

A PRAYER FOR SAFETY FROM FOES

[A *maskil* OF DAVID WHEN HE WAS IN THE CAVE. A PRAYER]

I CRY aloud to the *Lord;*
I make supplications aloud to the *Lord!*
2 I pour out my complaint before him;
I tell my trouble before him.
3 When my spirit faints,
Thou knowest my way.

In the path where I must walk,
They lay a snare for me.
4 Look to the right, and see
That I have no friend.
Escape is cut off from me;
Nobody cares for my life.

5 I cry unto thee, O *Lord;*
I say, "Thou art my refuge,
My portion in the land of the living.
6 Give heed unto my cry;
For I am brought very low.
Rescue me from my pursuers;
For they are too strong for me.
7 Bring me forth from prison,
That I may give thanks to thy name.
The righteous will throng around me,
When thou dealest well with me."

143

A PRAYER FOR DELIVERANCE

[A PSALM OF DAVID]

HEAR my prayer, O *Lord;*
Listen to my supplications!
In thy fidelity answer me, and in thy righteousness!
2 And enter not into judgment with thy servant;
For in thy sight can no man living be innocent.

3 For the enemy has pursued me;
He has crushed my life to the earth,

He has made me dwell in dark regions, like those long dead.
4 And my spirit faints within me;
My heart within me is appalled.

5 I recall the days of old;
I meditate upon all thy deeds;
I ponder the work of thy hands.
6 I spread forth my hands to thee;
I long for thee like a parched land. *Selah*

7 Answer me quickly, O *Lord;* my spirit fails.
Hide not thy face from me,
Lest I become like those that have gone down to the pit.
8 Let me hear thy grace speedily;
For I have trusted in thee!
Teach me the way that I should go,
For unto thee I lift my desire.

9 Deliver me from my enemies, O *Lord;*
I seek refuge in thee.
10 Teach me to do thy will,
For thou art my God;
Let thy good spirit guide me in a straight path.

11 For thy name's sake, O *Lord*, save my life!
In the vindication of thyself bring me out of trouble!
12 In thy grace cut off my enemies,
And destroy all my adversaries;
For I am thy servant.

144

a) A PRAYER FOR DIVINE REINFORCEMENTS

[OF DAVID]

BLESSED be the *Lord*, my rock,
Who trains my hands for war,
My fingers for battle;
2 My refuge, and my fortress,
My precipice, and my deliverer,
My shield, and him with whom I seek refuge;
The one who subdues the peoples under him.

3 O *Lord*, what is man that thou shouldst know him,
The son of man that thou shouldst take thought of him?
4 Man is like a breath,
His days are like a passing shadow.

5 O *Lord*, bow thy heavens and come down!
Touch the mountains that they smoke!
6 Hurl the lightning and scatter them;
Send forth thy arrows and rout them.

7 Send forth thy hand from on high!
Deliver me and rescue me from the mighty waters,
From the hand of aliens,
8 Whose mouths speak lies,
And their right hand is one of falsehood!

9 O God, I will sing thee a new song;
Upon a ten-stringed lute will I play to thee,
10 Who makest kings victorious,
Who delivered David, his servant, from the wicked sword.

11 Deliver me, and rescue me from the hand of aliens,
Whose mouths speak lies,
And their right hand is one of falsehood!

b) A CONTENTED PEOPLE

12 OUR sons are like plants grown large in their youth;
Our daughters are like cornices carved after the fashion of a palace.
13 Our garners are filled to overflowing, garners of all sorts.
Our flocks increase by thousands and tens of thousands in our fields.
14 Our oxen are heavily laden.
There is no riot and no alarm,
And no outcry in our streets.
15 How happy the people that are in such a state!
How happy the people whose God is the *Lord!*

145

AN ALPHABETIC DOXOLOGY

[A PRAYER OF DAVID]

א

I WILL exalt thee, my God, O King;
And bless thy name forever and ever.

ב

2 All day long will I bless thee,
And praise thy name forever and ever.

ג

3 Great is the *Lord;* and highly to be praised,
And his greatness is unlimited.

ד

4 One generation will praise thy works to another,
And will declare thy mighty acts.

ה

5 They will speak of the splendor of thy glorious majesty;
And I will tell of thy wonders.

ו

6 They will talk of thy terrible might;
And I will narrate thy greatness.

ז

7 They will publish the memory of thy great goodness,
And they will joyously proclaim thy righteousness.

ח

8 Gracious and merciful is the *Lord*,
Slow to anger and great in grace.

ט

9 The *Lord* is good to all,
And his mercy is over all his works.

י

10 All thy works give thanks to thee, O *Lord;*
And thy saints bless thee.

כ

11 They declare the glory of thy kingdom,
And tell of thy might;

ל

12 To make known his mighty deeds to the sons of man,
And the glorious splendor of his kingdom.

מ

13 Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
And thy dominion is over all the generations.

ס

14 The *Lord* supports all who fall,
And raises up all who are bowed down.

ע

15 The eyes of all wait upon thee,
And thou givest them their food in due season.

פ

16 Thou openest thy hand,
And completely satisfiest every living thing.

צ

17 The *Lord* is righteous in all his ways,
And gracious in all his works.

ק

18 The *Lord* is near to all who call upon him,
To all who call upon him sincerely.

ר

19 He fulfils the desire of those who revere him;
He hears their cries for help and delivers them.

ש

20 The *Lord* preserves all those who love him;
But all the wicked he destroys.

ת

21 May my mouth speak the praise of the *Lord*,
And let all flesh bless his holy name,
Forever and ever!

146

THE PRAISEWORTHY GOD

HALLELUJAH!
Let my whole being praise the *Lord!*
2 I will praise the *Lord* as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God as long as I exist.
3 Put no trust in princes,
In a mere man, in whom is no help.
4 When his breath departs he returns to his earth;
In that selfsame day his plans perish.

5 How happy is he whose help is the God of Jacob!
Whose hope is upon the *Lord*, his God,
6 Who made the heavens and the earth,
The sea and all that is therein;
Who preserves fidelity forever;
7 Who renders justice to the oppressed;
Who gives bread to the hungry.

The *Lord* looses the prisoners;
8 The *Lord* opens the eyes of the blind;
The *Lord* lifts up them that are bound down;
The *Lord* loves the righteous;
9 The *Lord* watches over the strangers;
The fatherless and the widow he supports;
But the way of the wicked he thwarts.

10 The *Lord* reigns forever,
Thy God, O Zion, for all generations!
Hallelujah!

147

THE WORKS OF GOD ALMIGHTY

HALLELUJAH!
Praise the *Lord*, for he is good,
For he is gracious; praise befits him.
2 The *Lord* restores Jerusalem.
He assembles the outcasts of Israel.
3 He heals the broken-hearted,
And binds up their wounds.
4 He determines the number of the stars;
He gives names to all of them.
5 Great is our Lord, and abounding in strength;
There is no limit to his undertanding.
6 The *Lord* upholds the humble;
But he casts the wicked down to the ground.

7 Sing to the *Lord* with thanksgiving;
Sing praises to our God upon the lute!
8 For he covers the heavens with clouds;
He prepares rain for the earth;
He makes grass spring forth upon the hills.
9 He gives the cattle their food,
And to the young rams when they cry.
10 He has no pleasure in the strength of a horse;
He has no delight in the legs of a man!
11 The *Lord* is pleased with those who revere him;
With those who wait for his grace.

12 Praise the *Lord*, O Jerusalem!
Praise thy God, O Zion!
13 For he strengthens the bars of thy gates;
He blesses thy children within thee.

14 He makes thy boundary peace;
He satisfies thee with the finest of the wheat.
15 He sends forth his command to the earth;
His word runs with utmost speed.
16 He gives snow like wool,
He scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
17 He casts forth his ice like crumbs;
Who can stand before his cold?
18 He sends forth his word and melts them;
He makes his wind blow; the water flows.
19 He declares his word to Jacob,
His statutes and judgments to Israel.
20 He has not acted thus with any other nation;
Nor do they know his judgments.
Hallelujah!

148

A HALLELUJAH CHORUS

HALLELUJAH!
Praise the *Lord* from the heavens;
Praise him in the heights!
2 Praise him, all his angels;
Praise him, all his host!
3 Praise him, sun and moon;
Praise him, all you stars of light!
4 Praise him, highest heavens,
And waters that are above the heavens!
5 Let them praise the name of the *Lord!*
For he commanded and they were created.
6 And he fixed them fast forever and ever;
He gave a statute that they should not transgress.

7 Praise the *Lord* from the earth;
Sea-monsters and all deeps!
8 Fire and hail, snow and fog,
Stormy wind, fulfilling his word!
9 Mountains and all hills,
Fruit-trees and all cedars!
10 Wild beasts and all cattle,
Creeping things and winged birds!
11 Kings of the earth and all peoples,
Princes and all rulers of the earth!
12 Young men and maidens, too,
Old men and boys!

13 Let them praise the name of the *Lord;*
For his name alone is exalted;
His majesty is over the earth and the heavens.
14 And he has raised up a horn for his people.
The praise is he of all his saints,
The sons of Israel, the people which is near him.
Hallelujah!

149

PRAISE TO THE CONQUERING GOD

HALLELUJAH!
Sing to the *Lord* a new song,
His praise in the assembly of the pious.
2 Let Israel rejoice in his maker;
Let the sons of Zion triumph in their king.
3 Let them praise his name with dancing;
Let them play to him on drum and lute.
4 For the *Lord* is pleased with his people.
He adorns the humble with victory.

5 Let the pious exult in honor;
Let them shout with joy upon their beds,
6 With exaltations of God in their throats,
And double-edged swords in their hands,
7 To execute vengeance upon the nations,
Punishment upon the peoples;
8 To bind their kings with chains,
And their nobles with fetters of iron;
9 To execute upon them the verdict that is written:
Such honor have all his saints.
Hallelujah!

150

THE CLOSING DOXOLOGY

HALLELUJAH!
Praise God in his sanctuary!
Praise him in his mighty firmament!
2 Praise him for his mighty deeds!
Praise him for his abundant greatness!
3 Praise him with the blast of the horn!
Praise him with lyre and lute!
4 Praise him with drum and dance!
Praise him with strings and pipe!
5 Praise him with clanging cymbals!
Praise him with crashing cymbals!
6 Let everything that breathes praise the *Lord!*
Hallelujah!

APPENDIX A

I. THE DATE OF THE PSALTER

THE Maccabaean origin of certain psalms is quite generally conceded today. Pss. 44, 74, 79, and 83 bear the most distinct stamp of their origin at this late date. It may be taken for granted that if the great experiences of that national crisis found expression in psalms, or religious poems, worthy of admission into the Psalter, the number was not limited to the four here mentioned. But even were these four all that were found worthy, the fact that they were added to the Psalter demonstrates that the Psalter itself was not completed until the Maccabaean period or after.

The first beginnings of the Psalter are not easily discoverable. The superscriptions of the individual psalms purport to fix the dates of many of them. According to these headings, as usually interpreted, David produced seventy-three psalms; Solomon, one; Moses, one; Ethan the Ezrachite, one; and Heman the Ezrachite, one. But two considerations weigh against giving this information full credence.

In the first place, the meaning of the superscriptions is by no means clear. The Hebrew preposition before "David," "Moses," etc., is commonly rendered "of," and taken as indicating the authorship of David, Moses, etc. But the same preposition appears before another word in many of the superscriptions, which means "director" or "chorister." Here it certainly does not denote authorship, but something else. This preposition appears, also, before "the sons of Korah," and it can hardly be supposed that the authorship of any psalms was accredited to the sons of Korah. Literary and poetical creations are not ordinarily the product of group activity. In Ps. 88, indeed, the preposition in question appears before "the sons of Korah" and also before "Heman the Ezrachite." We have no clear objective guide as to the meaning of the preposition in such contexts. To make it imply authorship in some cases but not in others is purely arbitrary. It may well be that the expressions "of David," "of the sons of Korah," etc., merely mean

that the psalm in question was taken from a collection carrying David's name, or gathered under the auspices of the sons of Korah, etc.

In the second place, if we could be sure as to what the superscriptions meant, we could not be sure that the information they impart is correct. It is a commonplace of biblical scholarship today that the superscriptions of biblical books were of later origin than the books themselves, and that in many cases they are far wide of the truth. The Book of Isaiah, for example, contains sixty-six chapters, of which the last twenty-seven had no connection with Isaiah or his age. Yet as the book now stands, the whole is assigned to Isaiah. The Greek translation of the Old Testament, known as the Septuagint, has even more superscriptions in its text of the Psalter than the Hebrew has. Where did it find them? It assigns fifteen more psalms to David than the Hebrew allows him. Among these extra fifteen is included Ps. 137. Yet it is rather difficult to imagine David looking back upon the Babylonian Exile and expressing himself in the words of this psalm. But it is no more difficult than to imagine David believing himself to be away from the presence of the Lord when he stepped across the border into Philistia (I Sam. 26:19 f.), and yet expressing his whole-hearted conviction that escape from the presence of the Lord was wholly out of the question, no matter in which direction he might flee. Yet this is what Ps. 139 says, and it is assigned to David by its superscription. The assignment of the fifteen extra psalms to David by the Greek translators is a part of the same uncritical attitude of mind that assigned the Psalms of Solomon, the Odes of Solomon, and the Wisdom of Solomon to the great king, and gave recently written literature freely to Adam, Enoch, Noah, and the patriarchs. This same attitude of mind reaches back into the treatment of the canonical literature, where it has assigned the Song of Songs to King Solomon. There is no ground for supposition that this habit of assigning religious writings to great men of the past arose for the first time in the late post-Exile period. Indeed, there are clear

indications of the existence of the attitude at a considerably earlier age.

The general conclusion as to the value of the superscriptions that is forced upon us by the foregoing facts is that the testimony of a superscription regarding the origin of a biblical book or a psalm may not be accepted as authoritative in and of itself. Only if the psalm or writing by its spirit and content supports the claim of the superscription may it be accepted as stating the actual fact.

When the seventy-three psalms assigned to David are examined from the point of view of their fitness in the life and times of David, insuperable difficulties arise. These psalms are among the richest products of the Psalter. They represent the best that the Psalter has to offer us in the spheres of ethical aspiration and religious insight. If we must put these hymns back into the days of David, we shall be compelled to conclude that there was practically no religious progress in the life of the Hebrews; but that their religion was fully developed in all its essentials in the days of David, that is, in the tenth century B.C. This is contrary to all that we have learned thus far of the history of Hebrew life and thought. All lines of investigation so far followed converge toward the view that the Hebrews of the period to which David belonged were exceedingly primitive in their religious attitudes and opinions, and that from David's time onward there was a steady growth upward, so that the point reached by the second or third century B.C. was leagues in advance of that attained in the tenth century B.C. All the work of the great prophets came after David's time. Not only so, but the great historical experiences of Israel, which taught her so much of the meaning of life and compelled her to reinterpret her world ever anew, came for the most part after the days of David. To assign these seventy-three psalms, or any considerable portion of them, to David would be tantamount to saying that the Hebrew nation learned practically nothing during the last thousand years of its history.

A still more specific and concrete difficulty confronts the claim

of these superscriptions to credibility. The picture of David given to us by the seventy-three psalms bearing his name is at the farthest possible removal from identity with the picture given to us by the oldest sources in the books of Samuel and Kings. These sources bear an air of verisimilitude. The David they present to us is a man of his age; he belongs there as a matter of course; he speaks its dialect, he thinks its thoughts, he does its deeds. He and his age fit together like hand and glove. This historical David has a superfluity of wives; but this did not keep him from stealing another man's wife, and bringing about the death of the other man in order that he might take his place. The fact that he was a protegé of the king of Gath did not prevent him from attacking clans friendly to the Philistines and hostile to Judah, and reporting to Achish the king that he had made raids upon "the south of Judah and against the south of the Jerahmeelites, and against the south of the Kenites," all of whom were friends and allies of Judah, and consequently enemies of the Philistines. His last will and testament, as recorded in I Kings, chapter 2, is in complete harmony with the tenor of his life. Here he charged his son and heir with a certain heritage of belated revenge that he himself had been too weak to put into effect. The fact that such deeds would create enmity toward Solomon on the part of powerful groups within the nation gave him no uneasiness. His deathbed was a logical climax to his life's career.[1] The man presented to us in these earliest records as David certainly does not appear to have been possessed of and dominated by the moral ideals to which utterance is given in Ps. 15.

The historical David was likewise far removed theologically from the thought of the David of the Psalter. The God of King David was but little better than David himself. His God could stir up David to number Israel and then punish David for taking the census by slaying seventy thousand of the people with a pestilence

[1] This record in I Kings, chap. 2, is so bad that many scholars refuse to accept it as true. In that case it would be of later origin, and the farther we get away from David's age, the greater is the tendency to magnify and idealize him! Such a picture as this from late times would be difficult to explain. See my *Religion of the Psalms* (1922), p. 47.

(II Sam. 24:1 ff.). This was so shocking to the later Jewish conscience that the Chronicler revised the story and put the initial responsibility for the census upon Satan rather than upon Yahweh (I Chron. 21:1). In like manner, David could think of Yahweh as having stirred up Saul to persecute him; and he thought it only reasonable, if such were the case, that Yahweh should accept a sacrifice and consider the matter closed (I Sam. 26:19). David had no difficulty in thinking of Yahweh as vitally interested in the execution of blood revenge and as going to extreme measures to assure the achievement of the bloody end, even requiring the hanging of seven of Saul's descendants in expiation of Saul's sin in slaying the Gibeonites, to whom Israel had guaranteed protection (II Sam., chap. 21). When David, seeking to do all honor to Yahweh, brought the ark of Yahweh into Jerusalem after it had been restored by the Philistines and had remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite for three months, he indulged in a whirling dance before the ark as it was borne along. The fact that his clothing upon this sacred occasion was but a scanty loin-cloth facilitated his movements, but shocked his wife Michal's sense of propriety. Yet David thought that he was verily doing God service (II Sam. 6:12–23). Moreover, the power of David's God was spatially limited; for when David was about to flee to Philistia from before the persecutions of Saul, he said, speaking of his foes, "They have driven me out today from all association with the possessions of Yahweh, saying, 'Go, worship other gods!' And now may my blood not fall to the ground away from the presence of Yahweh!" For David, Yahweh was, like the other gods of his age, a national deity, equal to all the demands that his own people might make upon him in their own land, but not to be thought of as following him into other parts of the world. Yet this is precisely what the author of Ps. 139 denies; there is no escape from the presence and power of his God; he is omniscient and omnipresent. No man who thought of God as David did could ever have written about him in such lofty terms as those employed in most of the so-called "Davidic psalms."

Are we forced to conclude, then, that the tradition of the Davidic authorship of psalms is without foundation? By no means. The evidence furnished by these very documents that reveal David as so primitive and naïve a spirit shows that David was early credited with poetic ability. The dirge over Abner, and especially the one over Saul and Jonathan, are unshakable evidences of the poetic character of David's mind. The tradition referred to in Amos 6:5 adds to the evidence for David's poetic skill. The story of his musical skill being called into play for the alleviation of Saul's melancholy points in the same direction. But if David was a poet, he must have composed religious songs. For though David's religion was very elementary and primitive, he gave it a large place in his life, and was constantly conscious of his relations with Yahweh. A man as deeply religious as David could hardly have written poetry in that age of the world's history that was not religious poetry. We have good reason, therefore, to suppose that David actually did write some psalms. But any psalms that he may have written must have reflected similar ethical and theological standards to those embodied in the earliest records of his life. Such ideas and sentiments in course of time would be felt to be out of place in the community's worship, and so the psalms in question would be discontinued or revised. After two or three treatments of this sort, such psalms as survived would have become unrecognizable as Davidic psalms. A similar experience would befall all early psalms, with the result that they would all either disappear or be largely re-written so as to conform to the point of view prevailing in ethics and theology in later times. Such names as David, Moses, and Solomon, therefore, contribute practically nothing to our knowledge of the background and origin of the Psalter as it lies before us at the present day. Whatever stamp of their personalities may have been impressed upon it originally, that had long faded out before the Psalter assumed the form in which we have it.

II. THE HYMNBOOK OF THE SECOND TEMPLE

THE most profitable point of view for us from which to consider the Psalter is that which regards it as the hymn book of the second temple. Solomon's temple was destroyed in 586 B.C., and the new temple did not arise until 516 B.C. It is altogether probable that when the first temple was destroyed, practically all the treasures it contained were either carried off by the conquerors or destroyed. Destruction would overtake not only the building but also the sacred writings stored within it. The new temple would have to undertake the task of gathering a new sacred literature, ritual, and hymnology. Private collections and oral tradition would be called upon for all that they were able to produce; but, for the most part, a new literature would have to be written. It was in the midst of such a situation as that that the hymnbook of the second temple had its beginning.

The fact of the use of psalms in the temple worship is proved by several lines of evidence. We know that psalms were regularly sung in connection with the presentation of the daily burnt-offering (cf. Dan. 8:11 f.). The books of Chronicles give the "singers" a prominent share in the ritual of the temple (I Chron. 9:2–34; 15:16–24). In I Chron. 16:4–36 we read of the regulations regarding the music of the temple services, and Ps. 96 is cited in full as one of the hymns used; Ps. 105 and 106 are associated with it. The musical annotations appearing in the superscriptions of so many psalms are most easily understood as instructions for the guidance of the leaders of the temple choir and orchestra. One psalm superscription describes its psalm (92:1–3) as "a song for the Sabbath." Other psalms refer to music and song in the temple, e.g., 68:24 ff.; 92:1–3; 95:2; 98:4–6; cf. 71:22 f.; 135:1–3.

Some of the work that went into the making of the Psalter may still be discerned. One of the last stages in its development was its organization into five books, after the precedent of the Law. These books are made up as follows: Book I, Pss. 1–41; Book II,

Pss. 42–72; Book III, Pss. 73–89; Book IV, Pss. 90–106: Book V, Pss. 107–50. Each of these books is closed by a doxology; see Pss. 42:13; 72:18–20; 89:52, 106:48; and Ps. 150, which is itself a doxology closing the entire Psalter. Within this group of five books, however, there are evidences of the former existence of other collections. Survivals of such earlier collections are recognizable in the present text. At the end of Ps. 72 we read, "The prayers of David, the son of Jesse, are ended." As a matter of fact, there are eighteen more Davidic psalms farther on in the Psalter, e.g., Pss. 86, 101, 103. The most natural inference is that at an earlier stage in the growth of the Psalter, Ps. 72 concluded a collection of Davidic psalms which was in circulation on its own account. Other groups of psalms which probably once existed separately are the psalms of the sons of Korah (Pss. 42, 44–49, 84, 85, 87, and 88), the twelve Asaph psalms (Pss. 50, 73–83), and the fifteen pilgrim psalms, or "songs of ascents" (Pss. 120–34). Further evidence of the existence of earlier collections is to be found in the fact that there are several duplicates in the Psalter (Ps. 14 = Ps. 53; Ps. 31:1–3 = Ps. 71:1–3; Ps. 40:13–17 = Ps. 70; Pss. 57:7:11 and 60:5–12 = Ps. 108; Ps. 1:5:4–6*a*+8–11 = Ps. 135:15:20. The existence of these duplicates is accountable easily upon the supposition that there were various collections of psalms in circulation which were incorporated bodily in the Psalter, no effort being made toward the elimination of duplicates. Still further evidence of the editorial work which brought about the existing Psalter is seen in the use of the divine names in the Psalter. In Pss. 42:83, the name God appears two hundred times. In Pss. 1–41, however, God appears only fifteen times, while Yahweh occurs two hundred and seventy-two times. This prevalence of one name over the other in certain parts of the Psalter is not due merely to the preferences of the authors of the Psalms. It is rather a matter of editorial revision, as appears from the fact that Ps. 14 uses Yahweh while its duplicate, Ps. 53, uses God, and the one copy occurs in a group of Yahweh-psalms while the other is found in a group of God-psalms. The same difference of

usage is seen in Ps. 40:13–17, on the one hand, and in Ps. 70, its duplicate, on the other. Such things as these make it clear that the Psalter went through many hands in the course of its development.

In this respect the Psalter shared the experience of hymnbooks in general. New editions are called for ever and anon. Old hymns which have fallen too far behind the growing mind of the community are omitted; new hymns expressive of more modern views and attitudes are taken on. Frequently the treatment of the old hymn is not so drastic; it is enough to change a phrase, to drop a stanza, or to add one, and the hymn continues to serve.[1] Through all the long process of changing form which we have sketched above, editorial changes of this sort were being made in the Psalter. For the mind of Judaism did not stand still. The times were stirring, and the Jewish mind observed and reacted vigorously to all that was going on. Their only choice was between progress and stagnation, and stagnation would have meant death to their religion.

A hymnbook has to pay the price of its popularity. It must perforce stay within reach of its public. This holds true in all ages. Not only so, but the hymnal must aim at reaching the average level of its community's intelligence. This means that it will not be representative of the best thought and the highest idealism of its age, but rather of the ideas and ideals of the man on the street. This limitation applied to the Psalter quite as much as to any modern hymnal. The best thought and the highest ideals of Judaism did not find expression in the Psalter, but rather in such writings as Isaiah, chapters 40–55; the Book of Jonah; and the Book of Job. The Psalter, therefore, must be judged upon its merits as a hymnbook, and should not be asked to meet standards which it never set up for itself. In its own class as a hymnal, it easily takes rank above all the hymnals of the ancient world, and commands the respect and admiration of the modern world as a noble survival from a splendid past

[1] For illustrations of this sort of thing in modern hymnals, see my *Religion of the Psalms*, pp. 2–4.

III. THE POETRY OF THE PSALTER

THE forms of Hebrew poetry were not run in the same molds as the poetry of the West. Rhyme is practically ignored. Indeed, in Hebrew, skill is called for in order to escape rhyme rather than to produce it. There are so many similar word-endings in Hebrew that rhyme would have been so simple and easy a matter as to have become burdensome rather than pleasing. At least, the production of rhymes would have had no merit.

The outstanding formal characteristic of Hebrew poetry was a balancing of lines, to which we give the name "parallelism." The simplest form of this is known as "synonymous parallelism." Here two successive lines say essentially the same thing, but in somewhat different terms; as, for example, Ps. 21:8,

> Your hand will find all your foes;
> Your right hand will find those that hate you.

Another type is known as "antithetic parallelism," since the thought of the second line is in contrast with that of the first line. So, for example, in Ps. 31:6,

> I hate them that pay regard to false vanities,
> But I myself have trusted in the Lord.

Still another kind of parallelism has been styled "synthetic." In this type the second line supplements and completes the thought of the first line. For example, in Ps. 3:2,

> Many are saying concerning me,
> "There is no help for him in God."

This type is very common in the Psalter. It might well be said of such lines that the principle of parallelism here disappears. In so far as a repetition of the thought of the first line is concerned, such a statement is correct; but there is parallelism in form, nevertheless, in that the one line balances the other. One particular type of line is of especial interest. It is sometimes known as the *Qinah*

or elegiac measure. It was used frequently in poems of dirgelike character, but was not confined to such poetry. Its peculiar characteristic is that the line is broken by a caesura at a point about three-fifths of the way through it. This produces a halting or limping effect. Such lines in this translation are printed in this way,

> The *Lord* is my light and my salvation;
> whom shall I fear?
> The *Lord* is the refuge of my life;
> of whom shall I be afraid?[1]

In many cases, clearly marked groups of lines recur with such regularity as to make the presence of strophes practically indisputable. There is no fixed standard length for such strophes; they may consist of two, four, six, eight, or more lines, as the taste of the poet and the structure of his thought may dictate. This strophic structure is clearly marked in some psalms by the recurrence of refrains at certain intervals; so, e.g., in Pss. 42, 43, 46, 56, 80, 99, 107, 114, 136, and 145. In other psalms the clear demarcation of thought plainly indicates strophic divisions; while in still others the existence of strophic structure is open to some question, since clear formal indication and distinct thought-groups are both alike lacking.

On the formal side of poetic structure, there is one especial type of poetry of which much use is made in the Psalter; that is the acrostic. The following psalms incorporate this principle: 9, 10, 25, 34, 37, 111, 112, 119, and 145. In some cases the lines of the psalm begin with the successive letters of the Hebrew alphabet taken in order; so, e.g., in Pss. 111 and 112. In other cases the alphabetic letters appear at the beginning of the first line and of every alternate line; so, e.g., in Pss. 25, 34, and 147. In still others they appear at the beginning of successive four-line strophes; so, e.g., in Pss. 9, 10, and 37; and Ps. 119 is organized into twenty-two strophes of eight lines each. To each strophe of this Psalm is assigned in proper order one letter of the alphabet, and this letter

[1] Ps. 27:1.

appears at the beginning of the first line and of every alternate line of its strophe. In this translation acrostic psalms may be recognized by the fact that the Hebrew letters are printed in them before the strophes to which they belong. This acrostic structure, of course, not only puts saddle and bridle upon Pegasus, but also hobbles him. There can be no free movement of thought and imagination under such close restrictions. As a matter of fact, the acrostic psalms are, poetically speaking, among the poorest in the Psalter.

Turning to the quality of the poetry of the Psalter, as distinguished from its form, it may be classified for the most part as a product of the lyric poets. There are some psalms that are primarily didactic in their spirit and viewpoint, as is the case with Ps. 119, for example. Lyric poetry never rises to the greatest heights of poetic achievement. The brevity of the psalms, in particular, forbids any extended and complete treatment of a given theme. They can but originate an emotion or a thought, and die in giving it birth. The reputation of Shakespeare rests not upon his sonnets; and the greatness of Milton does not come to full fruition in his *L'Allegro* or *Il Penseroso*, but in *Paradise Lost*. Lyrical poetry is but the expression of a fleeting sensation or a passing emotion. But in its own class as lyric poetry, the Psalter takes high rank. The essence of poetry is beauty—beauty of structure, beauty of sound, and beauty of thought and feeling. On the formal side and in the sphere of sound, much of the beauty of the original poetry is necessarily lost in a translation. The thought and feeling, on the other hand, may be carried over into another language, not without considerable loss, it is true, but yet with sufficient fulness to give a good impression of the quality of the original poem.

The psalms abound in the language of simile with all its power of suggestion. The wicked are like the chaff driven by the wind; the righteous are like a fruitful tree. The sun comes forth like a bridegroom from his bridal chamber. God is besought to guard the pious like the pupil of his eye. The psalmists exhaust their vocabulary of simile in their representations of God. He is presented as

endowed with all the powers, qualities, and characteristics of men. He is variously symbolized as a rock, a shield, a fortress, a tower, a warrior, a shepherd, a great bird, a fountain of light, and as the sun. The tongue of the wicked is a sharp sword. The pious long for God as the "deer longs for the water-courses." The "wrath of man" is personified and made to praise God. The penitent are adjured to "flee as a bird" to its mountain. Hyperbole appears at its best in

> Every night I flood my bed with tears,
> With my weeping I drench my couch [6:6];

And

> Deep calls to deep to the sound of thy waterfalls,
> All thy waves and thy billows pass over me [42:7];

And in

> For he will give his angels charge over you,
> To guard you in all your ways.
> They shall bear you up upon their hands,
> Lest you strike your foot upon a stone.
> Upon the lion and the adder you shall tread;
> Upon the young lion and the dragon you shall trample [91:11–13].

Such expressions as "the dew of thy youth" and "the womb of the morning," "sow in tears" and "reap in joy," reveal creative poetic power. The wrath of the psalmists is no puny, puerile thing; as it pours itself out in the imprecatory psalm it is magnificently terrible. The revelation of God in nature is nowhere more effectively and beautifully suggested than in Ps. 19:1–6. The transitory nature of our frail existence is vividly brought before us in Ps. 103:14–16. The harmony of the moral order of the universe is charmingly suggested in

> Grace and fidelity are met together,
> Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
> Fidelity springs up from the earth,
> And righteousness looks forth from the heavens [85:10 f.].

Pathos pours itself out in figurative terms in such prayers as Pss. 102:1–11 and 13:3, 4; and in both cases it does not abide, but passes over into triumphant assurance. Similarly, the insignificance of man in the great universe is suggested in Ps. 8, only to be at once made to yield to the thought of man's essential nobility as the gift of God. In such ways as these, and many others which may not be listed here for lack of space, the psalmists achieved a high degree of success in "translating spiritual experience into poetry."

IV. THE RELIGION OF THE PSALTER

RELIGION is a broader term than theology; it includes and transcends theology, which represents only the intellectual aspects of religion. Religion deals not only with strictly mental concepts, but also with such attitudes and emotions as are represented by the terms faith, communion, prayer, repentance, sorrow, and joy. The Psalter is the best embodiment of the religious spirit of ancient Judaism that has survived. The stark simplicity and candor, the utter honesty and unsullied sincerity of the psalmists, can hardly be too strongly emphasized or too highly evaluated. Abbé Fénelon's counsel was, "If God tires you, tell him so." This is the attitude of the psalmists. This kind of thing they are constantly doing. They make no attempt to conceal anything from God. They take him wholly into their confidence. They pour out their hearts before him. Their sins, their anger, their hopes, and their fears are all laid at his feet. Their attitude toward God recalls that of the much-tried Job, who rebuked his friends for not telling God the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; and assured them that God would see through their flattery and deception, and bring their double-dealing to light speedily. The psalmists stand before God, fully conscious of the fact that he can read their inmost thoughts, and yet unafraid. God is not for them a menacing specter of horror, but a congenial spirit, one with them in their ruling desires and open-minded to all their suggestions.

The Psalter, as the hymnbook of the second temple, had to give expression to the prevailing sentiments of the post-Exilic community. That was a stricken community. The captivity and Exile set their mark upon it at the beginning, and the persecutions of Antiochus marked its close. Through all that long stretch the Jews were a subject people. For a nation that regarded itself as the chosen people, this was a trial hard to bear. It constituted a perpetual problem. More than half of the psalms concern themselves

with it in some form or other. It appears most pathetically in Ps. 22, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

In the imprecatory psalms the problem appears at its worst. Here the disappointment and grief of Israel vent themselves in curses upon the head of the foe. Typical psalms of this kind are 55, 69, 83, 109, and 137. In extenuation of such fierce wrath we must not fail to remember that it was well deserved. The treatment of the Jews by their conquerors was not of such a sort as to inspire feelings of gratitude in their hearts. The constant collection of heavy tribute and taxation has never been borne with equanimity. Even the Christian attitude toward the foe, as manifested on both sides during the world-war, did not differ essentially from that of the imprecatory psalms. In that age the *lex talionis* was in full force and unchallenged. Not only so, but the moral order of the universe seemed to be imperiled. How could a just God permit wicked nations to triumph, and the pious Jews to be trampled under foot by them perpetually? A just God was expected to reward his people for their piety; and the reward was looked for in terms of material welfare. It would have been unnatural and irreligious for the Jews of the post-Exilic age to have accepted their lot without question, and borne their sufferings without complaint. The intensity of their wrath against their enemies was in a very real sense the measure of their passion for righteousness and justice. At that stage of the world's history, no other attitude of mind and heart would have been intelligible on the part of the Jews under such circumstances. For the world today, such psalms, coming from the distant past, may serve as an index of progress; sentiments of that sort would scarcely be tolerated in a modern hymnal. They serve, also, as an evidence of the seriousness with which the Jewish people took the world, and as a rebuke to those of us who are too light-minded to be aroused to passion by any wrong, at least so long as it is not inflicted upon us ourselves.

To appreciate the psalms correctly, we must keep in mind that they were the product of a legalistic and ritualistic period. They

were themselves, in part at least, written for the liturgy of the Temple, and used in that ritual. The psalms, here and there, contain allusions to the cultus of the Temple which show approval of it. Sacrifice, for example, is heartily approved of in Pss. 27:6; 50:5; 51:19; and in Ps. 66:13–15. To be sure, there are occasional references of an apparently contrary character, passages in which ritual and sacrifice are discounted and contrasted unfavorably with ethical conduct and truly spiritual worship. But here, as in the case of the prophets, it would be a mistake to conclude that the psalmists objected to sacrifice *per se*. The true evaluation of their remarks when taken all together is to the effect that they valued ritual in general and sacrifice in particular in their right place. They would never have dreamed of dispensing utterly with such religious forms, but they would have had the people realize that these external things were of no value apart from the possession on the part of the worshipers of the true spirit of worship, and the consuming desire to do the will of God in the affairs of the common daily life. The many allusions to the Temple in the Psalter and the deep love for it that these reveal show that the psalmists did not despise ritualistic religion or undervalue it in any degree. See, for example, Pss. 26:6, 8; 27:4; 28:2; 42:4; 43:3, 4; 48:9; 55:14; 65:4; 68:24–26; 73:17; 78:68 f.; 92:12 f.; 118:27; and especially Pss. 84, 122, and 134. A beautiful ritual, rightly used and properly understood, far from being an obstacle in the way of genuine spiritual worship is, on the contrary, a stimulus and a potent help for many people; and ritualistic types of religion have nothing to fear when judged by their fruits, as seen in their best products. On the other hand, the legalistic background of the Psalter makes it difficult for us to understand the spontaneity and enthusiasm of the psalms. They were sung in connection with a legal system that placed upon the necks of its adherents as heavy a yoke as was ever worn by men in the name of religion. Yet out of the midst of that bondage of the spirit they sing the praises of God with unquenchable joy. That legal system was devised and put into operation for the purpose of

winning the favor of God and placating his wrath. If the psalmists may be taken at their word, they found in it a deep satisfaction and a holy delight. The longest psalm in the collection is in praise of the law (Ps. 119). Here we read,

> O how I love thy law!
> It is my meditation all day long.

> Unveil my eyes, that I may behold
> Wonderful things out of thy law [vs. 18].

> Let me walk in the path of thy commandments;
> For therein do I delight [vs. 35].

A similar estimate of the law appears elsewhere, e.g., Pss. 19:7–14 and 78. The spirit that can exult in hardships and dance beneath burdens is characteristic of the saints and martyrs. It is enough to know that the thing required is in accord with the will of God; then the doing of it becomes the highest privilege and the deepest joy.

Though the immediate background of the psalmists was shrouded in gloom, the future held nothing in store for them but hope. It is an interesting fact that, just as "sweetest songs tell of saddest thought," so the darkest hours in Hebrew history yielded its brightest pictures. Finding little or nothing in the real present to furnish comfort and stay, the poets and dreamers of Judaism drew largely upon the future. Here the play of their imagination was never interrupted by the interposition of disagreeable facts. In the Psalter the hopes of the psalmists center almost wholly in the national future. They have but little to say of the future of the individual. The thought of a life after death that was worth while was hard for the Jews to attain. There is very little expression of it in the Old Testament as a whole, and in the Psalter itself it is almost entirely lacking, the only clear possibility of its appearance being in Ps. 73:22–26. The thought and energy that other people expended in working out an elaborate eschatology for the individual the Jews turned almost wholly upon the future of the nation. Hence they produced those splendid pictures of the messianic King-

dom that have since won the admiration of mankind. That messianic hope lies behind many of the psalms and comes to clear utterance in Ps. 2. That messianism does not express itself more frequently and plainly in the Psalter is, of course, due in part at least to the fact that the Psalter was the hymnbook of a subject people. If messianic ideals had been too vigorously expressed, the agents of the conqueror would have lost no time in suppressing the hymnbook as containing literature designed to foment revolt. Hence great caution was necessary in order that no offense be given. In this connection, attention may be called to the fact that many of the psalms are expressions of the hopes and fears of the Jewish community as a whole. They are written in personal terms, to be sure, but in many instances the nature of the thought makes it indisputably clear that the speaker in the psalm is the community itself. Typical cases of psalms of this kind are Ps. 102, in which verses 12 ff. indicate the point of view of the writer; and Ps. 118, where verses 2 ff. name Israel as the speaker and where verses 10 ff. describe a national and not a personal experience. See also Pss. 3, 13, 14, 18, 124, and 130. The Psalter was one of the most effective agencies in keeping alive and vigorous the national hopes of Judaism.

No consideration of the religion of the Psalter could fail to take account of the virile faith to which it gives utterance. The circumstances of Jewish life in the Exilic and post-Exilic periods were such as to discourage and overwhelm an ordinary people. When the northern tribes of Israel were carried into captivity in 721 B.C., they were merged into the surrounding population and civilization, and lost not only their religion but their identity. The Jews in and after 536 B.C. came back from their exile purified in their religion and strengthened in their faith. From that day on to the end of the national history they kept to the faith of their fathers, in spite of all manner of temptation to forsake it, and in defiance of oppression and persecution even to the death. In the Psalter, that faith is vibrantly triumphant. It is able to penetrate the gloom of the pres-

ent and discern the radiance of the approaching dawn. Even those psalms that give free expression to the doubts and fears of the community rarely fail to close upon a note of assurance and praise. The Psalmist who sings "out of the depths" is not content to stay there, but rises up upon wings of hope and faith (Ps. 130). Similar transitions are seen in Pss. 56, 64, 69, 73, 77, 79, 86, and 102. Psalms like 74 and 88, in which the gloom is unrelieved, are quite the exception. The ground of the Psalmist's faith was found in God himself,

> Cast your burden upon the *Lord*
> And he will sustain you.
> He will never let the righteous totter [55:22].

The Psalter is essentially a record of communion with God. The makers of the psalms, as they recoiled from the shock of contact with the hard, unyielding facts of the life around them, sought refuge in the bosom of God. In no literature is the sense of fellowship with the divine more constantly present or more keenly felt. This communion with deity was the psalmists' crying need. It comes to expression again and again.

> As a deer longs for the water-courses,
> So my whole being longs for thee, O God.
> My whole being thirsts for God, for the living God:
> How long till I come to see the face of God [42:1, 2]?

> O God, thou art my God; I seek for thee;
> My spirit yearns for thee; my flesh yearns for thee,
> As in a dry and parched land where no water is;
> So have I beheld thee in the sanctuary,
> While seeing thy power and thy glory [63:1, 2].

> But as for me, the nearness of God is my good;
> I put my reliance on the Lord *God;*
> That I may recount all thy wonders [73:28].
> I have no good beyond thee [16:2].

This same sense of God's presence and power in the history of the race inspired Ps. 90, that pearl among the treasures of the Psalter:

Lord thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations,
Before the mountains were born,
Or ere thou hadst brought forth the earth and the world,
Even from everlasting to everlasting thou art, O God.

And it is the cause of the faith of the Psalmist who speaks in Ps. 91:

He who dwells under the shelter of the Most High,
Who abides under the shadow of the Almighty,
Says of the *Lord*, "My refuge and my fortress,
My God, in whom I trust!"

A similar elevation of thought comes to expression in Ps. 19, which says in effective poetical language what Kant the philosopher centuries later meant when he said, "The starry sky above me and the moral law within me—these are two things which fill the soul with ever increasing admiration and reverence."

The psalmists' thought of man matched their thought of God. True, they were fully aware of the depths to which human nature could sink, and they did not shrink from picturing their foes as sunk in the lowest of those depths. Yet man who is capable of communion with God cannot be classed with the brute creation, but must have divine potentialities. This is the note struck by one of the psalmists in Ps. 8, and with his picture of the high estate of man we may well close this sketch of the religion of the Psalter:

When I see thy heavens, the work of thy fingers,
The moon and the stars which thou hast formed;
What is man that thou shouldst think of him,
And the son of man that thou shouldst care for him?
Yet thou hast made him but little lower than God,
And dost crown him with glory and honor!

APPENDIX B

TEXTUAL NOTES

Pss. 9 and 10. These two psalms were originally one. They formed an acrostic poem, with a four-line stanza for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet in order. The original fourth stanza has disappeared, and the alphabetic structure ceases at 10:1, to be resumed at 10:12.

Ps. 9:9. So by slight vowel change; Heb. "they" for "behold."

Ps. 10:6*b*. So by slight vowel change; Heb. "which" for "my steps."

Ps. 11:6*a*. So with some Greek manuscripts; Heb. "snares and fire."

Ps. 12:7*a*. So with Vrs.;[1] Heb. "them" for "us."

Ps. 12:7*b*. So with some manuscripts; Heb. "him" for "us."

Ps. 16:2*b*. So with Vrs.; Heb. "My welfare is not upon thee."

Ps. 16:3*b*. So by slight change; Heb. "all" for "no."

Ps. 16:4*a*. So by slight changes; Heb. "Their troubles will be many; they buy another[?]."

Ps. 16:7*b*. Heb., literally, "my kidneys" for "my thoughts."

Ps. 16:9*a*. So by slight vowel change; Heb. "my liver" for "my honor."

Ps. 17:3*d*. So with Heb. consonants and in part with LXX; Heb. vowels, "Thou dost not find; I have thought."

Ps. 17:4*b*. So by slight change; Heb. "I have kept the ways of the violent."

Ps. 17:11*a*. So by slight change; Heb. "our steps, etc."

Ps. 17:14*b*. So by slight change; Heb. "portion is from the world."

Ps. 18. This psalm is a duplicate of II Sam., chap. 22.

Ps. 18:12*b*. So by slight change; Heb. "waters" for "heavens."

Ps. 18:16*a*. So in II Sam. 22:16; Heb. here, "waters."

Ps. 18:30*a*. So by slight change; Heb. "run a troop."

Ps. 18:36*c*. So by slight change; Heb. "thy humility."

Ps. 18:43*b*. So in II Sam. 22:43; Heb. here, "I pour them out, etc."

[1] Vrs. = Versions, viz. Septuagint, Vulgate, Peshitto, Targum, etc.

Ps. 19:4*a*. So with Vrs.; Heb. "their line."

Ps. 20:3*b*. Literally, "regard as fat" for "accept."

Ps. 20:7*a*. So with LXX; Heb. "Some call upon, etc."

Ps. 20:9*b*. So with LXX; Heb. "May the king answer us, etc."

Ps. 22:3. So by slight change; Heb. "and thou art holy, inhabiting the praises of Israel."

Ps. 22:8*a*. So by slight change; Heb. "Roll thou upon the *Lord*."

Ps. 22:9*a*. So with LXX; Heb. "Thou didst draw me forth from, etc."

Ps. 22:16*c*. So partly with Vrs.; Heb. "Like a lion are my hands and my feet."

Ps. 22:17*a*. So in part with Vrs.; Heb. "I count all my bones."

Ps. 22:27*b*. So LXX; Heb. "before thee."

Ps. 22:29*a*. So by slight change; Heb. "All the fat ones of the earth shall eat and worship."

Ps. 24:6*b*. So with LXX; Heb. omits "the God of."

Ps. 25:17*a*. So by slight vowel change; Heb. "They have enlarged, etc."

Ps. 26:2*b*. Literally, "Examine my kidneys, etc."

Ps. 27:13*a*. Some Hebrew manuscripts read, "Had I not believed, etc."

Ps. 28:8*a*. So with some Hebrew manuscripts and Vrs.; Heb. "The *Lord* is their strength and refuge."

Ps. 29:9*a*. So by slight change; Heb. "brings travail upon the hinds."

Ps. 31:6*a*. Some manuscripts and the Vrs. read, "Thou hatest."

Ps. 31:10*c*. So with Vrs.; Heb. "through my guilt."

Ps. 31:11*b*. So by slight change; Heb. "and to my neighbors exceedingly."

Ps. 32:6*b*. So by slight change; Heb. "in the time of finding, only, etc."

Ps. 32:7*b*. So by slight change; Heb. "with shouts of deliverance."

Ps. 34. An acrostic psalm in two-line stanzas, which begin with the letters of the alphabet taken in order.

Ps. 34:5. So with some Vrs.; Heb. "They looked at him and were jubilant and their faces were not abashed."

Ps. 35:7*b*. So with Syriac; Heb. puts "pit" immediately before "net."

Ps. 35:16*a*. So with LXX; "With the profanities of those who mock for a cake[?]."

Ps. 35:17*b*. So by slight change; Heb. "from their destruction."

Ps. 36:1*b*. So by slight change; Heb. "An oracle of transgression to the wicked [is] within my heart."

Ps. 37. An alphabetical acrostic, in four-line stanzas, the first lines of the stanzas beginning with the letters of the Hebrew alphabet in their order.

Ps. 37:21. So with LXX; Heb. "those blessed of him" and "those cursed of him."

Ps. 37:22. So by slight changes; Heb. "From the *Lord* a man's steps are established, and he decides his way."

Ps. 37:34*b*. So with LXX; Heb. "like a green tree in its native soil[?]."

Ps. 37:36*a*. So with LXX; Heb. "Watch the blameless one and look upon the upright."

Ps. 38:18*a*. So by slight change; Heb. "For I tell my guilt."

Ps. 39:1*d*. So with LXX; Heb. "I will watch a muzzle, etc."

Ps. 39:11*b*. So with LXX; Heb. "Thou dost consume his treasure like a moth."

Ps. 40:17. So with Ps. 70:5; Heb. here, "May the Lord give thought to me."

Ps. 41:8*a*. So with LXX; Heb. "An evil disease is poured out upon him."

Ps. 41:9*b*. So by transposition and slight change; Heb. "has enlarged a heel against me."

Ps. 42:4*b*. So with LXX; Heb. "that I went with the crowd, I drew them forth to the house of God."

Ps. 44:5. So with LXX; Heb. "order" as imperative.

Ps. 45:3*b*. So with Vrs.; Heb. repeats "and your majesty."

Ps. 45:5. So by transposition; Heb. "Your arrows are sharpened; peoples will fall under you; in the midst of the king's foes."

Ps. 49:12*a*. So following vs. 20*a*.

Ps. 49:14*c*. So by slight change with context; Heb. "The upright will rule over them."

Ps. 49:18*b*. Heb. "They will congratulate you."

Ps. 49:18*d*. Heb. "They will never again see light."

Ps. 49:20*a*. So by change of one letter; Heb. "man in honor, etc."

Ps. 50:1*b*. Or by change of one letter, "and the earth feared, etc."

Ps. 51:6. The Hebrew as it stands is unintelligible. This translation involves a new pointing for one word and the omission of another word as a mistaken gloss.

Ps. 52:1*b*. So Heb.; by transposition of one word and a slight change of vowels, we get "against the pious all day long."

Ps. 52:9*b*. So by slight change; Heb. "and will await thy name, for it is good before thy saints."

Ps. 55:19*a*. So by slight change; Heb. "God will hear and will humble them, / For he dwells of old. *Selah.*"

Ps. 58:1. Heb. text is very ambiguous; "gods" has also been rendered "indeed," "congregation," and "in silence."

Ps. 58:2*b*. So with Vrs.; Heb. "measure[?] out violence."

Ps. 58:7. So by transposition of one word and redistribution of consonants; Heb. "one who treads his arrows as though they were cut off."

Ps. 59:15*b*. So with LXX; Heb. "They stay all night."

Ps. 60:5–12. These verses reappear as Ps. 108:6–13.

Ps. 60:8*c*. So in Ps. 108:9, Heb. here, "Over me shout in triumph, O Philistia."

Ps. 61:2*c*. So by slight change of vowels; Heb. "Thou wilt lead me."

Ps. 61:5*b*. So by slight change; Heb. "hast granted the inheritance."

Ps. 65:5*d*. So by slight change; Heb. "the sea of far-off ones."

Ps. 65:10*a*. So with Vrs.; Heb. "Thou dost throw down its clods."

Ps. 66:12*c*. So with Vrs.; Heb. "to abundance."

Ps. 66:17*b*. So by slight changes; Heb. "It was raised under my tongue."

Ps. 68:6*a*. So by slight change; Heb. "God makes the desolate inhabit a house."

Ps. 68:17*b*. So by new division of letters; Heb. "The Lord in them Sinai in the holiness."

Ps. 68:21*b*. So by slight change; Heb. "the hairy skull."

Ps. 68:24*a*. So with Vrs.; Heb. "may crush in blood."

Ps. 68:27*a*. So by change of vowels; Heb. "bless ye God."

Ps. 68:29*a*. So with Vrs. and some Hebrew manuscripts; Heb. "Thy God commanded thy strength."

Ps. 68:30*c*. So with LXX; Heb. "trampling upon those delighting in silver."

Ps. 68:31*a*. So with Vrs.; Heb. "Let princes come, etc."

Ps. 68:35. So by change of two vowels; Heb. "It is Israel's God who gives strength and power to the people. Blessed be God."

Ps. 69:11*a*. So with Vrs.; Heb. "When I wept myself with fasting."

Ps. 69:23*b*. So with some Vrs.; Heb. "And to prosperous ones [?] a trap."

Ps. 69:27*b*. So with LXX; Heb. "and of the pain of thy victims they tell."

Ps. 69:33. So by slight changes of vowels; Heb. "The humble will see; those who seek for God will be glad; and your heart will revive."

Ps. 70. This psalm is a duplicate, with slight textual changes, of Ps. 40:13–17.

Ps. 70:1. "Be pleased" is supplied from Ps. 40:13.

Ps. 70:3*a*. So with Ps. 40:15; Heb. here, "May they return."

Ps. 71:1–3. A duplicate, with slight variations, of Ps. 31:1–3.

Ps. 71:3*a*. So with Ps. 31:2*b*; Heb. here, "a rock of habitation."

Ps. 71:6*c*. So by slight changes; Heb. "my praise."

Ps. 71:15*c*. So in part, with Vrs.; Heb. "For I know not number [?]."

Ps. 72:5*a*. So with LXX; Heb. "May they fear thee, etc."

Ps. 73:4. So by different division of letters; Heb. "pangs to their death and healthy, etc."

Ps. 73:10. So by different division of consonants in first line and change of one consonant in second line; Heb. "Therefore he restores his people hither, / And waters of fulness are drawn off for them."

Ps. 73:21*b*. Literally, "I was pierced in my kidneys."

Ps. 73:24*b*. So by different division of consonants and repointing of the first two Hebrew words; Heb. "and afterward thou dost take me gloriously."

Ps. 74:5*a*. So by slight change; Heb. "as one brings in" for "in the passage."

Ps. 74:8*a*. So by slight change; Heb. "their progeny" for "We will Hellenize them."

Ps. 74:11*b*. So by slight change; Heb. "and thy right hand from within thy bosom consume."

Ps. 75:1*b*. So by redivision of consonants and with support of Vrs. Heb. "and near is thy name."

Ps. 75:9*a*. So with LXX; Heb. "I will declare forever."

Ps. 75:10*a*. So by change of one consonant; Heb. "I will break off."

Ps. 76:4*a*. So by transposition of two consonants in first word; Heb. "Glorious [?] art thou."

Ps. 76:4*a*. So by slight change; Heb. "mightier than the mountains of prey."

Ps. 78:48*a*. So with LXX; Heb. "to the hail."

Ps. 80:14. So as in vss. 3, 7, 19; Heb. "O God of hosts—repeat please," i.e., ditto.

Ps. 80:16*a*. So by change of one letter in first word; Heb. is unintelligible.

Ps. 84:7*b*. So with some Vrs.; Heb. "He appears unto God in Zion."

Ps. 85:8*c*. So with LXX; Heb. "May they not return to folly."

Ps. 86:11*c*. So with Vrs.; Heb. "Make my heart one to fear, etc."

Ps. 87:4*a*. So by slight vowel changes; Heb. "on account of those knowing me; behold, etc."

Ps. 87:7*a*. So by slight change; Heb. "like men dancing."

Ps. 87:7*b*. So by change of vowels; Heb. "All my springs are in thee."

Ps. 88:1*a*. So by slight vowel change; Heb. "O *God*, God of my deliverance, by day, etc."

Ps. 89:33*a*. So by change of one consonant, with some manuscripts and some Vrs.; Heb. "I will not break off, etc."

Ps. 89:37*b*. So by slight vowel change; Heb. "and be a faithful witness in the skies."

Ps. 89:47*a*. So by slight change; Heb. "Remember, I, what is life."

Ps. 89:50*a*. So by slight change; Heb. "How I carry in my bosom all great ones, peoples."

Ps. 89:51*b*. So with LXX; Heb. "the footsteps of thy anointed."

Ps. 90:9*b*. So with Vrs.; Heb. "We bring our years to a close like a sigh[?]."

Ps. 96:1. This psalm is copied in I Chron. 16:23–33.

Ps. 97:3*b*. So by slight change; Heb. "around his foes."

Ps. 97:10*a*. So by slight changes; Heb. "They who love the *Lord* hate evil."

Ps. 99:3*b*. So by slight change of vowel; Heb. connects with vs. 4, reading, "The strength of the king, who loves justice."

Ps. 100:3*b*. So with the vowel text; consonantal text reads, "He made us and not we ourselves."

Ps. 102:3*a*. So with some Heb. manuscripts and Vrs.; Heb. "in smoke."

Ps. 105:22*a*. So with LXX; Heb. "That he might bind, etc."

Ps. 105:28*b*. So with LXX; Heb. "They did not rebel against his words."

Ps. 105:40*a*. So with Vrs.; Heb. "He asked, etc."

Ps. 106:7*c*. So by slight change; Heb. "against the sea, at the sea of reeds."

Ps. 106:27*a*. With Ezek. 20:23; Heb. here, "would let their descendants perish" (lit., "fall").

Ps. 107:3*c*. So according to context, with slight change; Heb. "from the sea."

Ps. 108:1–5. A duplicate of 57:7–11.

Ps. 108:4*a*. So with 57:10*a;* Heb. here, "great from upon the heavens."

Ps. 108:6–13. A duplicate of 60:5–12.

Ps. 109:4*b*. So according to context, with slight changes; Heb. "And I . . . . prayer."

Ps. 109:10*b*. So with LXX; Heb. "May they search, etc."

Ps. 109:28*b*. So with LXX; Heb. "They rose up and were ashamed, etc."

Ps. 110:6*a*. So with Vrs.; Heb. "It is full of corpses."

Ps. 111. An acrostic psalm, the lines beginning with the letters of the Hebrew alphabet taken in order.

Ps. 112. An acrostic psalm, the successive lines beginning with the letters of the Hebrew alphabet taken in order.

Ps. 118:12*b*. So with Vrs.; Heb. "They will be quenched like, etc."

Ps. 118:13*a*. So with LXX; Heb. "Thou didst thrust hard at me that I might fall."

Ps. 119. This acrostic psalm has twenty-two strophes, one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet, each containing sixteen lines. Each alphabetical letter opens the first and each succeeding alternate line of its strophe.

Ps. 119:15*b*. So with Vrs.; Heb. "I gaze upon thy paths."

Ps. 119:30*b*. So with change of one consonant in last word; Heb. "I have set."

Ps. 119:122*a*. So with context and by change of two consonants; Heb. "Pledge thy servant, etc."

Ps. 119:160*b*. So with Vrs. and some Heb. manuscripts; Heb. "judgment."

Ps. 119:161*b*. So with vowels and Vrs.; Heb. consonants, "thy words."

Ps. 126:1*b*. So with LXX; Heb. "We shall be like dreamers."

Ps. 127:2*d*. So by slight vowel change and with Vrs.; Heb. "his loved one."

Ps. 135:15–20. These verses are a duplicate with modifications of Ps. 115:4–6*a* and 8–11.

Ps. 137:3*c*. So by change of one consonant; Heb. is unintelligible.

Ps. 137:5*b*. So by transposition of one consonant; Heb. "May my right hand forget."

Ps. 138:2*c*. So with LXX; Heb. "magnified thy word over all thy name."

Ps. 138:3*b*. So with Vrs.; Heb. "Thou didst make power restless in me."

Ps. 139:11*a*. So by slight change; Heb. "pant after me [?]" or "erase me[?]."

Ps. 139:14*a*. So with Vrs.; Heb. "I am fearfully wonderful."

Ps. 139:16*a*. So by transposition of the word "days" from the last line of this verse; Heb. is unintelligible:

> Thy eyes saw my unshapen mass;
> And in thy book they were all written;
> Days were formed, and there was not one among them.

Ps. 139:18*b*. So by slight change of vowels in one word; Heb. "When I awake, I am still with thee."

Ps. 139:20*a*. So with consonants; vowels, "who declare thee [for an evil plan]."

Ps. 139:20*b*. So with some Vrs.; Heb. "who take thy cities in vain."

Ps. 140:9*a*. So in part with LXX; Heb. omits negative and is difficult; literally, "Those encompassing me will be high as to the head."

Ps. 141:5. This verse interrupts the connection between vss. 4 and 6, and fits in better after vs. 3.

Ps. 141:6, 7. These verses have veen very poorly preserved. The rendering given here involves the transposition of the word "rock" from vs. 6 to vs. 7 and four simple corrections of errors. Heb. as it stands reads:

> Their chieftains will be hurled down by the sides of the rock;
> And they will hear my words that they are pleasant;
> Like one cleaving and splitting in the land,
> Our bones, etc.

Ps. 143:10*c*. So with Syr. and some Heb. manuscripts; Heb. "a level land."

Ps. 144:1–7*a*. These verses are based upon and condensed from parts of Ps. 18.

Ps. 144:2*a*. So by change and transposition of one consonant; Heb. "my grace and my fortress."

Ps. 144:2*d*. So with Vrs. and vowel text; Heb. "my people under me."

Ps. 145. An alphabetic acrostic, each letter of the alphabet in turn starting a group of two lines; but the *nun*-couplet is missing.

Ps. 145:5. So with LXX; Heb. "The splendor of thy glorious majesty, / And the things of thy wonders I will tell."